R

Resolutions extracted from the Minutes of Prudential Committee.

"Resolved,— That the missionaries of the Board at Singapore, together with the missionaries about to embark in the Brunette, & the Rev. Mr. Arms, be instructed to deliberate, at a meeting for the purpose at Singapore, on the expediency of prosecuting the plan for commencing a mission at Padang, or any other place on the southern side of the Island of Sumatra; & should their opinion be unfavorable to the prosecution of such plan, that then Mr. Arms be instructed to desist from any further attempts, at present, to commence a mission on the southern side of that island.

"Resolved,— That, in case it be deemed expedient to defer our mission at Padang, the brethren then inquire into the expediency of attempting a mission in some one of the districts on the opposite side, & that Mr. Arms be instructed to engage in this enterprise, should it be recommended by the brethren. Or, should the opinion of the brethren to whom this subject is committed be in favor of postponing all missionary efforts in Sumatra for the present, that Mr. Arms then be instructed to employ himself in accordance with the views of the brethren, until he received further instructions from the Committee.

"Resolved,— That should it be the opinion of

the brethren, assembled in the meeting above referred to, that the Rev Samᵘˡ P. Robbins ought to be associated with Mr Arms, he be thus associated; but should they be of opinion that he ought to labor elsewhere, that he be governed by that opinion till he receive further advices from the Committee.

A true copy from the Minutes.

R. Anderson,

Clerk of Pruds. Com.

Missionary Rooms, Boston, July 30, 1836.

Rev. Ira Tracy, } Dear Brother,
Singapore. }

This will introduce to you the Rev. Ephraim J. Roberts, a missionary to China from a Baptist Board of Foreign Missions lately organized in our Western Valley. Mr. Roberts has devoted a considerable property to the propagation of the gospel in China, and also himself.

He will make it his first business, I trust, to acquire the language; & while doing this may reside some time at Singapore: I would commend him to the fraternal regards of yourself & associates, & doubt not you will cheerfully render him such aid as it may be in your power to give.

I am, Dear Brother, most truly yours,

R. Anderson,

Sec. of A. B. C. F. M.

Rev? Ira Tracy,

Singapore.

Rev. D. J. Roberts.

Rec'd Mar. 25. 1837.

GRANTS RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

When Received.				When Remitted.			
1833.	March 18.	Sandwich Islands,	$3,000	1833.	April 23.	Sandwich Islands,	$3,000
	April 16.	Mahrattas,	2,500		July 1.	Bombay,	5,000
	April 23.	do.	2,500		March 6.	Sandwich Islands,	2,000
	Feb. 15.	Sandwich Islands,	2,000		March 20.	Cherokees,	300
	Feb. 15.	Cherokees,	300		Dec. 17.	Canton,	3,000
	Nov. 16.	China,	3,000		Dec. 17.	Sandwich Islands,	5,000
	Dec. 7.	Sandwich Islands,	5,000	1834.	May 1.	Canton,	2,000
1834.	April 22.	China,	2,000		May 20.	Bombay,	3,000
	May 5.	Mahrattas,	3,000		May 6.	Ceylon,	2,000
	May 5.	Ceylon,	2,000		Aug. 19.	Greece.	
	August.	1,500 copies of N. T. for Greece.			Sept. 27.	Canton,	5,000
	Aug. 5.	China,	3,000		Sept. 29.	Bombay,	3,000
	Sep. 23.	China,	2,000		Dec. 3.	Sandwich Islands,	3,000
	Oct. 7.	Mahrattas,	3,000		Nov. 15.	Ceylon,	2,000
	Oct. 21.	Sandwich Islands,	3,000	1835.	April 1.	Ceylon,	2,000
	Nov. 10.	Ceylon,	2,000		April 24.	Canton,	5,000
1835.	March 24.	Ceylon,	2,000		June 6.	Constantinople,	1,000
	March 24.	China,	5,000		June 6.	Nestorians,	500
	April 30.	Constantinople, for Jewish Scriptures,	1,000		May 7.	Ceylon,	2,000
	May 7.	Nestorians,	500			Total,	48,800
	May 7.	Ceylon,	2,000				
		Total,	$48,800				

GRANTS RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

When Received.				When Remitted.			
1832.	Dec. 26.	Sandwich Islands,	$1,000	1832.	Dec. 22.	Sandwich Islands,	$1,000
	Dec. 26.	Mediterranean,	1,000		Dec. 24.	Mediterranean,	1,000
	Dec. 26.	Mahrattas,	100	1833.	Jan. 15.	Bombay,	1,000
1833.	Jan. 21.	do.	900		May 11.	Ceylon,	1,000
	Feb. 5.	Ceylon,	1,000		May 29.	Canton,	1,500
	April 1.	China,	1,500		Oct. 3.	Syria,	500
	July 22.	Syria,	500		Sept. 10.	Constantinople,	500
	July 22.	Jews in Turkey,	500		Oct. 3.	Smyrna,	1,500
	Sept. 7.	Constantinople, Asia Minor, and Armenia,	1,500	1834.	May 2.	Siam,	500
	Sept. 7.	Siam,	500	1833.	Oct. 23.	Ceylon,	1,800
	Sept. 17.	Ceylon,	1,800	1834.	April 26.	Sandwich Islands,	1,000
1834.	Feb. 5.	Sandwich Islands,	1,000		March 22.	Canton,	600
	March 10.	China,	600		May 27.	do.	1,400
	April 10.	China,	1,400		May 20.	Bombay,	1,000
	April 10.	Mahrattas,	1,000		June 13.	Greece,	800
	April 10.	Greece and Greek Islands,	800		Jan. 22.	Expended for printing,	300
	April 10.	Choctaws,	300			do.	100
	April 14.	Cherokees,	100		April 26.	Sandwich Islands,	500
	April 14.	Sandwich Islands,	500	1835.	Jan. 28.	Ceylon,	1,000
1835.	Jan. 23.	Tamul people,	1,000		Jan. 28.	Bombay,	2,000
	Jan. 23.	Mahrattas,	1,000		Jan. 28.	Ceylon,	500
	Jan. 27.	do.	1,000		Jan. 28.	Singapore,	1,000
	Jan. 27.	Tamul people,	500		Jan. 28.	Canton,	1,500
	Jan. 27.	Singapore and Indian Archipelago,	300		March 13.	do.	2,500
	Jan. 28.	do.	700		May 7.	Ceylon,	2,000
	Jan. 28.	China,	1,500		May 13.	Bombay,	1,000
	Feb. 3.	do.	2,500		June 6.	Syria,	500
	Feb. 3.	Tamul people,	500		June 6.	Persia,	500
	Feb. 24.	do.	1,000		June 6.	Smyrna,	1,500
	March 24.	do.	500		June 6.	Constantinople,	500
	March 31.	Mahrattas,	1,000		April 24.	Canton,	1,000
	March 11.	Syria and Persia,	500		Aug. 26.	Sandwich Islands,	3,000
	March 17.	do.	500		Feb.	Expended,	90
	March 11.	Asia Minor and Greece,	700			Total,	$34,590
	March 17.	do.	500				
	March 31.	do.	300				
	March 11.	Constantinople,	200				
	March 27.	do.	180				
	March 31.	do.	120				
	March 24.	China,	1,000				
	April 1.	Sandwich Islands,	1,200				
	April 21.	do.	800				
	May 9.	do.	1,000				
	April 11.	North American Indians,	150				
		Total,	$34,650				

GRANTS RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

When Received.				When Remitted.		
1836.	April 28.	Asia Minor, for Armeno-Turkish Testament,	$5,000	1836. May 6.	Asia Minor,	$5,000
	April 28.	Indian Archipelago, for Malay, Siamese, Chinese, and Bugis Scriptures,	7,500	May 8.	Indian Archipelago,	7,500
	April 28.	China,	4,000	May 8.	China,	4,000
	April 28.	Siam, for Siamese and other Scriptures,	2,000	May 8.	Siam,	2,000
	April 28.	Persia,	500	May 6.	Persia,	500
	Oct. 12.	Syria, for Arabic Scriptures,	500	Oct. 27.	Syria,	500
		Total,	$19,500		Total,	$19,500

GRANTS RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

When Received.				When Remitted.			
1836.	Feb. 10.	China,	$1,000	1836. Feb. 16.	China,		$1,000
	March 8.	do.	1,700	April 6.	do.		1,700
	June 1.	do.	1,300	June 8.	do.		1,300
	March 8.	Singapore and Indian Archipelago,	700	June 16.	Singapore and Indian Archipelago,		2,000
	April 11.	do.	1,300				
	April 11.	Siam,	1,000	June 16.	Siam,		1,000
	Feb. 10.	Tamul people,	1,000	Feb. 16.	Tamul people,		1,000
	March 29.	do.	1,000	April 1.	do.		1,000
	April 11.	do.	1,000	May 7.	do.		1,000
	March 8.	Mahrattas,	600	March 15.	Mahrattas,		600
	April 23.	do.	472	May 6.	do.		472
	April 11.	do.	400	June 6.	do.		428
	June 1.	do.	28				
	April 11.	Sandwich Islands,	1,000	July 16	Sandwich Islands,		1,000
	April 11.	Syria,	1,000	April 13.	Syria,		1,000
	April 11.	Nestorians,	500	April 13.	Nestorians,		500
	March 18.	Smyrna,	900	April 13.	Smyrna,		900
	April 11.	Greece,	500	April 13.	Greece,		500
	April 11.	Constantinople,	1,000	April 13.	Constantinople,		1,000
		Total,	$16,400		Total,		$16,400

Missionary Rooms, Boston Oct. 31, 1836.

Dear Brethren,

I send you an enlarged list of the grants made by the American Bible & Tract Societies to our missions. We wish the Treasurer of the mission, as soon as may be, to state what portion of the grants to yr mission made by each of these societies has been expended, and what portion yet remains on hand; and that henceforward you will make this a regular item in the annual accounts of the mission.

Most truly yrs,

R. Anderson

...nd mind to reflect, and
...pass
...labor

Rev. Ira Tracy,

Singapore.

Mr. H. Yates.
Yours &c. &c.
Rec'd Mar. 25. 1857

Missionary Rooms, Boston, May 17, 183 7

To the Brethren of the Sirgapore Mission.

Dear Brethren,—I am instructed by the Prudential Committee to write you on a subject, which is at all times important, and which now urges itself forcibly on our particular attention. I mean, the subject of *expenditures* and *economy*. At the close of the last financial year, the Board was nearly 40,000 dollars in debt, and there is too much reason to apprehend that it will not be much better off in that respect at the end of the current year. It did indeed so happen, in the good providence of God, that we had about sixty missionaries and assistant missionaries under appointment and ready to go forth to their work, which furnished us with ground for strong and affecting appeals to the churches. But these appeals have been the less effectual in consequence of the unexampled pecuniary distress among the mercantile classes, which has not yet found relief. Nearly a hundred thousand dollars beyond the rate of our ordinary annual receipts, must be raised before the 1st of August next, to place us, in a pecuniary point of view, where we were a year and a half ago. The Committee were greatly embarrassed in determining whether they ought to send forth the missionaries in these circumstances, and the question was referred, as far as it could be, to the churches. The actual receipts thus far, though very encouraging for the two months past, are on the whole very disproportioned to our expenses; but liberal subscriptions having been made in some of our large cities, and assurances of support and earnest entreaties to go forward having come in from all parts of the country, the Committee thought it their duty to send these brethren and sisters forth, and nearly all of them are now on their way.

It is certain that to raise funds to meet the expenditures of the current year will require great and unwearied efforts. We have probably overrated the amount of *enlightened* missionary spirit in the community. It is too apparent that the churches have not yet the definite idea of what they are to do to carry on the work of missions on a large and extended scale among the heathen. Three hundred thousand dollars, and even two hundred thousand, seems to them an enormous sum to raise and expend in a year. The churches evidently have not come up to the idea of aiming to bring whole countries at once under the influence of the gospel. They are more fearful that we shall go too fast, send out too many missionaries in a year, and exceed our receipts, than that we shall go too slow. A vast work—I had almost said the chief work—remains to be done among our churches at home. In what may be called the *geography of missions*, they are yet to be in great measure educated. The speculator in western lands does not expect his lands to be purchased till he has fully made known their situation and their nature. No land beyond the Alleghanies would be sold or bought, if no more definite knowledge of it existed in the community, than generally prevails in the churches concerning heathen nations. To make even ministers of the gospel scribes well instructed in the geography of missions, even of our own missions, so that they shall themselves be interested in them as individual missions, and be able to impart interest and attractiveness to their monthly concerts—will require much time and labor. The Lord give them a willing mind to read, study, and reflect.

We are entirely convinced that sudden and great advancements in the annual receipts of the Board cannot be expected, except once in a great while, as the result of extraordinary pecuniary embarrassments, unavoidably and judiciously incurred. You and we must form and execute our plans with this fact constantly in view; and we must expect that every five or six years there will be more or less of commercial distress in the community, in which the members of the church extensively will suffer with the men of the world, and all benevolent societies will experience disappointment in their anticipated receipts. As wise master-builders of the house of God, the directors of these operations must take these facts into view; and the same remark may be extended to all who labor in connection with the system. Does faith require any thing different from this? Faith is an intelligent principle, with eyes to see, and ears to hear, and mind to reflect, and not a mere blind energy. By faith we belive that this ignorance, stupidity, and worldliness of the church will pass away before the influences, which God is gradually preparing to exert upon his people. By faith we believe that our labor and yours will not be in vain in the Lord. By faith we are sustained in the hour of adversity, however dark, and confidently look for breaking day and the rising sun. But faith no more shuts her eyes upon the providence of God, than she does upon his word. In the prosecution of missions our faith is to be governed by these combined views, and they forbid the expectation that the Board can command funds to an indefinite extent in any future year of its operations. When money comes in freely, we must remember that the year certainly draws nigh when it will be otherwise. Our plans and expenditures must be regulated and governed—painful as it may be to every gracious feeling within us—by our probable receipts. While we exercise strong faith, we must also exercise sound discretion. The standard of duty for the churches, as a body, is not of course our standard of duty as a missionary society. *They* are able and therefore ought to fill the world at once with the means of spiritual illumination; *we* can do no more than we obtain the means of doing through voluntary contributions of the christian community.

Recent events have more strongly than ever impressed the importance of economy on the minds of the Committee—economy at home and abroad, running through the whole system. Our buildings for habitations, printing-offices, and seminaries, the repairs of buildings and rents, our incidental expenses, style of living, libraries, and apparatus for schools and seminaries, our expenditures for native teachers and helpers, in short, the whole frame-work and operation of our missions, should be on the strictest principles of economy; and we should be able to show that it is so. It is important to

remember the almost resistless force of examples and precedents. What is done by one mission, or missionary, or for one, becomes soon a precedent for others, and, before we are aware, is usage—is law. In this silent manner there is a constant tendency to increasing expensiveness in the conducting of our missions;—in outfit, dwelling-houses, family expenses, books, periodicals, apparatus for schools and seminaries, etc. etc. This is one reason of the present excess in our expenditures, though by no means the principal one. Not the least delicate and difficult operation in the management of missions is counteracting the force of ill-judged precedents, and retracing steps that have been taken; and perhaps the great design of such unpleasant exigencies as the one in which we now are, (when, because it is impossible to obtain money for our current expenses, without a great sacrifice, we procure outfit for missionaries, passages, and every thing else, as far as possible, on credit,) is to oblige us to consider our ways, and to make it possible for us to mend them on the score of expenditures. In a system of operation so extended as ours, it is the easiest thing in the world to increase our expenditures in the most rapid ratio. I was specially impressed with this fact, while the company of fifteen families, which lately sailed for the Sandwich Islands, was preparing for embarkation. The circumstances of each family being similar, the rule for one, in most cases, was the rule for all. This was proper enough; but it resulted that if each of the families procured an article of furniture costing twenty dollars, which was not strictly necessary, the whole unnecessary expenditure was three hundred dollars. So if we multiply any item of expenditure by the thirty missions, the two hundred families, or the four or five hundred laborers in the missions of the Board, we arrive at striking illustrations of the subject. We have also a forcible illustration in the great facility with which *round numbers* are used in making out orders. Let them be used when they express the actual wants of the mission, or of the individual, and only then. We can as easily procure seventeen articles of a kind, as two dozen; and one hundred and seventy, as two hundred. No doubt this simple rule, carried through our missions, would save a great sum in the space of a year.

I fear we are coming to this, that the expenditures must increase less rapidly than they have done, in several of the missions, or our Committee will not dare to send forth all the missionaries who offer and are fitted to go. Our position has long been and now is that of sending forth every well qualified candidate for the preaching of the gospel among the heathen; and I trust and pray that this position may never be relinquished without the most invincible reasons. I believe that, with a proper regard to economy, it may be retained permanently. I can hardly conceive of a greater calamity to the cause than its abandonment. Only the withdrawment of the Holy Spirit would more effectually damp the missionary spirit in our seminaries of learning.

Two points are to be aimed at;—*First*, To see if the expenses of your mission cannot be immediately reduced, without, on the whole, diminishing materially your influence on the people around you; and *secondly*, To secure something like a certain knowledge by the Committee beforehand, as to the expenses of each mission, and the aggregate of the annual expenditures of the Board. This latter object will be attained by a prompt attention annually, by the several missions, to the resolution of May 3, 1836, which was sent you in a printed circular dated Oct. 7th. The exigencies of the case, however, require that some limitation should be at once assigned to your expenses, as a mission, which will be regarded in the remittances, and which you are earnestly recommended if possible not to exceed. The limitation is founded on an estimate of your necessary expenses, made after a careful examination of your pecuniary accounts for the last year by Mr. Hill and myself, and also on a thorough investigation of the subject by the Committee at a meeting on the 20th of December. Until it shall appear that a different sum ought to be allowed, the Committee will remit to you seven thousand — dollars, for your annual expenditure, after the expiration of the present financial year of the Board. For this year, _____ dollars have already been remitted. The Committee are of opinion that the first-named sum, besides defraying your family and incidental expenses, will afford a reasonable allowance for education, and also, in connection with the grants of the bible and tract societies, for the press. At any rate, it is as large a proportion of the funds available to the Board, as the Committee think ought at present to fall to your mission. And in respect to schools, for which the expenditure is becoming considerable, it should be remembered that our object is to sustain them only so far as shall be necessary to furnish models, awaken an interest in education, and raise up teachers. If great care be not used, the expenditures on this score will interfere with the sending forth of preachers of the gospel.—I ought to add, that sometimes you will doubtless be able to reduce the amount of your annual expenses below the sum which is remitted to you.

The above estimate we have been obliged to make almost without documents. With regard to the actual & necessary expenses of a family, there was nothing to give us any light. We have been governed by what we know of the missions similarly situated. We shall of course receive from each of you an abstract, an-

usually a semi-annual, of your family or personal expenses. Had we such accounts from Singapore, we should have been much aided in this estimate. — On the subject of expenditures I shall say something more in a letter I am now writing you.

The seven Thousand dollars are made up as follows:

4 families — Mr. Tracy's, Mr. Travelli's, Mr. North's, & Doct. Tracy's (if still at Singapore,) supposed expenses of each averaged at ~~750~~ $3.000	
Two unmarried missionaries — Shelton. Dickinson & Hopkins, at 500 dollars,	1.000
Building, etc.	1.000
Education,	1.000
The Press,	500
Incidentals,	500
Total,	$7.000

In the present state of our Treasury & of our commerce you must, if possible, not exceed this sum,

Most truly yours,

R. Anderson,

Sec'l of A. B. C. F. M.

Rev. R Anderson
Rec'd Sept. 17. 1837
Ans'd Sept. 19. 1837
Rec'd [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Rec'd Sept. 19 1837 Rev. R. Anderson

Missionary Rooms, Boston, May 17, 1837.

To the Brethren of the Singapore Mission.

Dear Brethren,

I have received the follow-
ing communications from the brethren now at Singapore; viz.
From Mr. Ira Tracy, dated March 21, 26, April 13, May 2,
May 6, 12, Oct. 12, 15, 26, 28, 1836.
From Mr. Dickinson; dated Oct. 27, 1836; also, answers
to queries relating to the Seminary, at that date, transmitted
by Mr. Bridgman.
From Mr. Hope; — Dated Nov. 19, 1836, at Batavia.
Doct. L. Tracy; — dated Batavia, Nov. 10, 1836.
Mr. North; — Dated Oct. 13, 1836. & plan of mission premises.

I must thank Mr. Tracy for his notices of the college at Malacca, etc. etc.

Learning the deficiency in Mr. Romyn's power of Attorney, I wrote him on the subject, & just before he left this country he sent me two copies of a power, which Mr. Hill has transmitted to you. Are they sufficient? He has returned to Denmark. His present address, as he

~~visto, ma franc London, ist~~

via Hamburg.

Herrn C. U. Meisiger ~~Esq~~

Taarstedt über Schleswig;

Denmark.

~~Old~~ Permission from the Committee to erect buildings, as for instance the Chinese Chapel, do not remain in force unless the building is erected within the time contemplated when the permission was passed. The chapel cannot be erected without a new vote on the subject.

In the present posture of affairs, you must stop all expenses not unavoidable. The estimate we have made for your expenses, (not including those on account of the Bible & Tract Societies,) I have mentioned in a printed circular, which accompanies this. The estimate is for the year commencing ~~July~~ Aug. 1, 1837 & ending July 31, 1838, and is $7,000. The manner in which this aggregate is made up is there stated. Our remittances will be governed by this estimate. Our country & our government

are in an important time of bankruptcy. The Banks almost universally have stopped paying specie. Many of our best & most munificent friends (including the house of Talbot, Olyphant & Co.) have failed, & very serious diminutions are made & will be made in our receipts. Indeed the merchants are struggling for very existence, & cannot bear an appeal. In such a tempest, which the Lord is sending upon our country, & in fact upon the commercial world, as a rebuke, we must lay to & take in sail for a while. We are obliged to do this. The two brethren Ball & Wood who were destined to Singapore, but were also designated to Java, & one to Siam, — all expecting & ready to sail next month, — are stopped, & certainly cannot go till the autumn, if so soon. The printed circular, which I now send you, was drawn up several months ago, but we have had no opportunity to send it to Singapore until now. A limitation of the expenses of the several missions had become necessary for the reasons there stated. It is of very great importance, irrespective of the present unexampled

state of the times, that each mission should keep within the limits prescribed. In view of the circumstances already referred to, it is indispensable that every practicable curtailment be made. I rejoice in the stand you are taking as to the nature of the buildings you propose erecting, as described in the answer to the questions, a change wholly in accordance with my views; viz. wooden buildings instead of brick. The land mentioned in one of your letters, valued at $2,000, as desirable to be purchased, cannot be purchased till we see more prosperous times. Nor with the Committees sanction the purchase of real estate in any case, if not made in conformity to the rule which requires their consent to be obtained previous to the purchase. Better submit to inconveniences in some cases, & some loss of good, than suffer the evil of violating a rule of so much importance to the Board. Its solvency & credit will always be in danger, if that rule be not guarded at all events.

Our debt last year, as you will have learned doubtless ere this reaches you, was nearly $40,000.

will probably be as great at the next meeting
or greater; for the missions are so distant, that
the more expensive of them, that it takes more
than a year to put a check on our expenditures
to any great amount. Besides, about sixty Indian
laborers, male & female, have been employed
this year.

For a more particular statement of the affairs,
I refer you to the June number of the Missionary
Herald of the present year. The statements
there made are worthy of your particular &
prayerful consideration.

I do not quite understand your attitude in
regard to the place of education. Mention is
made in one of your letters of a board of school
designed for 40 scholars, & the speaker of
his Malay boarding school. Are there two schools?
If so, the committee think one of them ought
to be dismissed. Until more prospects has been
made in the languages, than you can have
made, & until better teachers are procured than
you can have obtained, we all see of serious

that your boarding scholars might be few & very select. At 25 Dollars a piece — the estimated expense of each scholar — your boarding school starts at an annual expence of $1,000 for the support of the pupils alone; & the care & teaching of so many at the outset of your mission, must be a time consuming business. The manner, in which the time & strength of Mr. Tracy, Doct. Bradley, Mr. Parker, & Mr. Bridgman are occupied — at the sacrifice in a great measure of their acquisition of the language, has long given us great uneasiness. In the case of some of these brethren at least, & particularly Mr. Tracy, it has probably been unavoidable. Many months time we wish to caution preparatory to some decisive measures on the part of the committee, which I presume will soon be taken, for stopping the Chinese Repository, & you will see by our last Report that we have doubts whether the practice of medicine has not been carried too far in some of the missions. We are prepared now to insist upon what we have often said, that nothing

ought to be allowed to prevent as necessarily follow
giving his child, adopted or disciples, attention to
the acquisition of the language during his first
year. The missionary who acquires with ease
necessarily
language of the country, must make accordingly
labors.
indefatigable. The mission should lay
its plans to retain Mr. Tracy if could [illegible]
his own. This it will indeed do as a matter
of course, now its numbers are so small. But
still it should not be by preventing this
arrived from giving their whole
to the language the elder chiefs
life.

To return to the Islands. After the
the North member of a station should be
dependently of the mission. The Treasurer of the
mission is also authorized to expend money for
any object, except by vote of the mission. Each
member of the mission takes upon direction of
their own. Every thing should be done in order
Standing orders also important points of
of the Instructions given to Charleston Islands to

Mrs. Ball. They contain the views of the brethren on the subject of mission seminaries, & will probably be printed in the Herald as such. You will find them in a copy of the Charleston Observer.

We take for granted that Mr. Hope will follow his instructions & remain at Singapore. The position taken by Mr. Parker, in the letter which states that the brethren had invited Mr. Hope to go to Macao, - that the brethren there might supercede particular instructions of the Committee on the ground of their better acquaintance with circumstances, would be subversive of all order. Of course it did not so appear to Mr. Parker. The cases are very rare when positive instructions of the Committee should be disregarded. The Committee act upon plans, & they understand best their own plans. I have had some opportunities to observe, & recollect no case where missionaries have departed from positive instructions, except on mistaken grounds. The successive acts

of the Committee, generally, have reached Earth
after — the last to have visited this part.

As you have now become organized in
mission, I trust you communications to the
Rooms will assume an official form; — I do not
mean to the exclusion of letters for individ-
uals by any means, but that you will for-
ward letters which express the deliberate views of
the mission. as such. Mr. Arthur's conclusions, from his re-
searches to ascertain how great a proportion of
the Malays can read, are too sweeping, & his infor-
mation in relation to the people by no means satis-
factory. I ~~mind~~ say this here, because his
letter had a semi-official character. The investi-
gation he is making is one of great importance, & I hope
it will be pursued with the greatest care, & by
no means to support any theory which may have
been formed on the subject. & in due time we shall
expect to receive the opinions of the mission. If there
are few readers among the Malays, there will be
great need of elementary books to be used in such
schools as can be instituted among them, & with as

any a language as the Malay is reputed to be, knowledge of it may be sufficiently acquired in a little time to prepare such books as will be vastly preferable to none. Should it appear that the number of readers is very small in the archipelago, this would very little affect the plans actually formed by the Committee with respect to the archipelago. Our aim is, from small beginnings at Singapore, both in printing & education, to rise with the blessing of God, to something which shall shed much light on the darkness of that vast region. Let us look on the bright side, for that is the side which is turned towards us, & go forward.

Mr. Tracy's account of the receipts & expenditures on the score of the Bible & Tract Society, dated Oct. 12, 1836, is too imperfect to be satisfactory. I trust you have now the means of stating fully how the case stands in respect to the Bible & Tract Societies.

Our accounts from Siam are very encouraging

I would suggest to Doct. Tracy, whether that is not the field for him. This, however, is merely a suggestion. We are willing to leave the matter, for the present, as it now stands.

The fact mentioned by Mr. Hope, that the passage from Batavia to Singapore is so long at certain seasons, was new to us. It had never been mentioned by any of the brethren before, nor in any book so far as I know. You can not be too particular in giving us information of this kind. However, there was no opportunity for sending these brethren direct to Singapore, that has not been, so far as we know, to this day.

Desiring an unceasing interest in your prayers, I am, Dear Brethren, as ever,

most truly yours,

R. Anderson, Sec. of the
A. B. C. F. M.

Via Phila Mission.

Rev. Isa Tracy,

American Missionary:

Singapore.

Mr. A. Anderson
Rec'd Apl. 17. 1857
Answ'd Apl. 19. 1857
Ry Pr. Mail

To the Brethren at Hingham.

— from Mrs. Hen. for June.

PRESENT FINANCIAL CONDITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE BOARD.

THE Prudential Committee feel called upon to make to the friends and patrons of the Board a brief but plain statement of its financial condition and prospects. Other friends of Christ and the heathen are as deeply interested in its objects as themselves, and would have sufficient cause to complain, if its operations should be embarrassed and its success hindered without their being informed of its actual condition, so that they might, if in their power, afford the necessary aid. Such an exigency has now arrived. The nature and extent of it could not have been anticipated. The financial concerns of the Board had been for the five years preceding the last in a highly prosperous condition, and strong hopes were entertained that little or no embarrassment would hereafter be experienced from want of adequate funds. The annual receipts were large and increasing each year. Assurances of support and encouragements to extend the operations of the Board, as rapidly as the number of men to be obtained would permit, were received through agents and by letters from all parts of the country. It was believed that religious feeling and the spirit of christian benevolence and enterprise were strengthening and extending in the community; that the number of the friends of missions was steadily augmenting, and that activity in the cause was becoming more than heretofore the result of intelligence and of permanent and vigorous principle.

In consequence of these encouragements and hopes the Committee were induced to enlarge their plans, and to attempt to prosecute the work intrusted to them with increased vigor in all its departments. The call for numerous additional missionary laborers was sent out to theological seminaries, to candidates for the ministry, and to various other classes of persons. Men were appointed to explore new fields of missionary effort; new missions were established; reinforcements were sent to those already begun; new presses were put in operation; books and tracts were multiplied and scattered widely abroad; the school system was extended; seminaries for training native teachers and preachers, to supply the deficiency of men from our own country, were planned and opened in various places; native teachers were taken into employ; and the missionaries were directed to adopt whatever other measures they could advantageously for giving increased vigor to their operations.

All this was done. The call for missionary laborers began to be responded to, and the number of candidates for the several departments of service increased from year to year. The number of missionaries and assistants under the patronage of the Board, and the extent of its operations, as well as its annual income and expenditures, had become greatly augmented; but still the want of an adequate number of laborers seemed to be the principal obstacle in the way of a much more rapid and wide diffusion of a knowledge of Christ and his salvation. The most cheering assurances were sent in from all quarters that whatever amount of funds could be judiciously expended should not be withheld.

Thus favored of the Lord for years preceding, and with so encouraging prospects for the future, the Board came to its annual meeting in September last, when, by the report of the treasurer, it was seen that the disbursements for the year had exceeded the receipts by about $39,000, and above thirty mission families were then ready, or would be ready within a few months, to enter on their work among the heathen. The Committee hesitated whether, considering the severe commercial embarrassments under which the country was then laboring, they should go forward burdened with such an amount of debt, and send out these reinforcements. They therefore made inquiry extensively to ascertain what were the views of the christian community on the point. The almost unanimous reply was that *the missionaries must not be detained;* that the friends and patrons of the Board were able and willing to furnish the funds requisite, and needed only to be fully informed of the amount. Such assurances, coming from every quarter, and supported by most liberal subscriptions, induced the Committee to proceed with their plans. Most of the reinforcements contemplated, embracing sixty missionaries and assistants, were sent forth, at an expense for outfit, passage, etc., of about $34,000. Young men, also, in consequence of the urgent call which had been made for their services for five years past, have been led to consider their duty relative to the missionary work and to prepare themselves for it, and have been coming forward as candidates for the several departments in great numbers. The whole number now under appointment is *forty-three*, of whom *thirty-five* are to be ordained missionaries. A considerable number of these are now waiting to be sent forth, and most of them will be ready to go within the next six months. Besides these, more than twenty offers of service, of which nine are from candidates for the ministry, are before the Committee, not having yet been acted upon.

But while young men and women have been offering themselves for the missionary work in greater numbers than during any previous year, the state of the treasury of the Board has been such as seriously to retard its operations. In the last Annual Report an estimate was given of the amount of disbursements which would be required for carrying forward the operations of the Board for the current year and liquidating the existing debt. This estimate, including the sum requisite for sending out the reinforcements then nearly ready, was $280,000. This was inserted in a subsequent number of the Missionary Herald. In the number for December it was stated that the income since the annual meeting in September had not equalled the expenditures; and that if the monthly receipts till the close of the financial year, July 31st, should fall much below $30,000, on the average, the treasury would still remain in debt. The average receipts of the succeeding five months, ending with the 10th of April, has been little more than $22,000; leaving a deficiency below the estimate made in December of $40,000, and leaving the treasury still encumbered with a debt of about that amount. Should the amount received during the months of May, June, and July, exceed that received during the corresponding months of last year, in the same ratio that the receipts of the nine previous months exceeded those of the months of last year to which they correspond, the aggregate received during these three months will be about

$69,000; and this, according to the best estimate which can be made of the necessary expenditures during that period, will leave the debt of the Board at the close of this financial year nearly the same that it was at the close of the last.

But is it safe, without immediate and great exertion on the part of the patrons of the Board, to calculate on receiving the amount mentioned, during the three months referred to? The commercial embarrassments, which were great nine months ago, have been becoming worse, until a general derangement of business and severe, perhaps unparalleled distress, pervades the whole mercantile community. The receipts of the Board indicate the increasing difficulty with which funds are obtained. In the Missionary Herald for January $30,107 were acknowledged; in that for February $19,436; in that for March $24,124; in that for April $17,578; in that for May $19,234; and in the present number $16,003. Many friends of the Board, who had intended to make liberal donations to its treasury, are, by the providential reverses experienced in their business, deprived of the ability to fulfil their generous intentions. The donations of others must be far less than they purposed. This is especially the case in our large towns and cities, where the pecuniary pressure is most severe; and unless the Board may rely on its friends in the interior, principally the agricultural classes, for more general and enlarged contributions, the receipts for months to come must be expected to fall far below the estimate given above.

Under these circumstances it need hardly be stated that the Committee have attached to all the appointments recently made the condition that the candidates could not be sent forth to their several fields of labor, and must not be at the expense of the Board in any other manner, until the state of the treasury will justify the measure. The Committee have also felt constrained to detain in this country four or five mission families, which were expected to embark about this time. They have also written to most of the missions under the care of the Board, limiting their annual expenditures severally to sums much below those which have been heretofore allowed them, and directing them to curtail their operations in such a manner as not to exceed the prescribed allowance.

This curtailment is made at a time when the accessible parts of the heathen world are more extensive and more promising of favorable results, than at any former period. The openings for the establishment of new missions are numerous. Reinforcements also are urgently called for by the missions in Southern and Western Africa, in the Mediterranean, among the Mahrattas, in Southern India, in Siam, and in other places; requiring in all not less than fifty ordained missionaries, who, with physicians, schoolmasters, printers, and female assistants, would amount to not less than one hundred and fifty persons whom it is desirable to send forth to missions already established during the next six months; and most of whom will, before that time shall elapse, probably be ready and might be sent, if the funds of the Board were adequate. An urgent appeal has just been received from the missionaries in Siam, praying that eighteen missionaries, five physicians, a printer, a superintendent of schools, and three female teachers may be sent with as little delay as possible to the several provinces embraced in that empire. The field seems white to the harvest, and the access to it wide and unimpeded.

At no former time could large sums be expended at the several missions so advantageously as at the present, in furnishing various facilities for a rapid and wide diffusion of Christianity and useful knowledge. Indeed the very success with which the Lord has favored his servants seems to call for enlarged expenditures. The results of past labors, and of the means which have been put into operation, and reduced to an effective system, are now beginning to be developed. Languages have been acquired; Scriptures, school-books, and religious tracts have been translated; presses, types, and all the essential requisites for the rapid multiplication of books are now ready; the number of intelligent readers of christian books is greatly multiplied; the gospel has been widely preached, and numerous converts have been gathered into churches; seminaries have been established and furnished, and others are in the process of organization; native teachers and preachers in considerable and constantly growing numbers are beginning to issue from them, affording the means for establishing outstations, distributing books, and extending the school system, with competent christian teachers, far beyond what has heretofore been done. All these openings and facilities for further and more advantageous effort, and these calls for enlarged expenditures are the necessary consequence of past success.

In these circumstances an inquiry of great moment arises, What course shall the Board pursue? Shall they send forth those missionaries and assistants, male and female, now under appointment, together with those whose offers of service have been received, or who are known to be ready to offer themselves, amounting to nearly a hundred in all? Shall the new fields which Providence is opening be occupied? Shall the missions already established be reinforced, and immediate advantage be taken of all the facilities which have been created for the more rapid diffusion of knowledge and Christianity? These are questions which concern all the friends of Christ as much as they do the Board, and should be prayerfully considered by all. It is obvious that the Board cannot go forward and do all this without a great increase of funds; and as the Board is entirely dependent on its friends and patrons, it can do nothing more than the free donations received from the christian community enable it to accomplish. Obviously the debt of the Board, while the financial concerns of the country are in their present condition, ought not to be increased.

Must there then be a retrenchment in the expenditures of the Board? Are the friends of missions willing to look at the consequences of such a measure, and permit them to be realized? The presses must in that case be stopped, and the streams of knowledge and life which were flowing from them must be cut off. The schools which were sapping the foundations of idolatry and error must be disbanded, and the children and youth dispersed abroad to have effaced from their minds all good impressions, and to feel again, unchecked, the contaminating influence of heathenism. The pupils of the seminaries, whom the missionaries have watched over and instructed with so much solicitude, and upon whom their hopes were

so much fixed, as their future coadjutors in the labors of the gospel, must be scattered, to be collected again, if at all, at a future day, and under most unfavorable circumstances. Native teachers and catechists and preachers must be turned out of employment, to wander about in idleness, exposed to temptation and apostasy; while the missionaries are left to bear those labors and burdens alone, which they had begun to share with their converts and pupils. Curtailment, if carried to any considerable extent, must necessarily be a process of retrograding—an undoing of work already done, and which, if Christianity is ever to triumph, must be performed again. It must involve loss of time, loss of labor, loss of property, and a loss of the feeling of stability and progress. Is the christian community strong enough; have they men and funds enough; and have they time enough for performing their work at such disadvantage?

But supposing that immediate and great retrenchment were decided upon, are the community aware how long it would require to effect it? If the missions were located at or near where the mail might carry communications to them in a few days, they might soon be reached by instructions from the Committee, and their operations be modified according to the exigencies of the times. But when it is remembered that most of them are at distances from 6,000 to 15,000 miles from the Committee, and in parts of the world only occasionally visited by ships, and where communications are peculiarly liable to miscarriage or delay, the difficulty of making changes in them, accommodated to unexpected emergencies in this country, is readily seen. A single case will illustrate this: It is now more than four months since there has been any opportunity for sending communications to the Sandwich Islands, where is the largest and most expensive mission of the Board. No such opportunity is now known: and as the voyage thither occupies five or six months, a period of from nine to twelve months must necessarily elapse, before communications written on the first of February last could reach that mission. Similar difficulties exist to nearly an equal extent, in regard to all the missions beyond sea. Additional delay in effecting retrenchment is occasioned by the fact that contracts are often made with workmen at the press, with teachers and other classes of persons, which must be fulfilled, and works are in progress which cannot be immediately abandoned. Expenditures, therefore, must go on at the missions, and drafts on the treasurer must continue to arrive in the common course, long after the Committee shall have found retrenchment to be necessary, and shall have used all practicable measures to effect it.

Hence it is highly important that the resources of a society conducting foreign missions should be free from fluctuations, so that their amount may be calculated upon from year to year. With this the missions will have the air of stability and progress; but without it, they must be subject to frequent interruptions and retrogradations, and the missionaries and those who have the immediate direction of them to anxiety and embarrassment. In times of commercial distress might not the christian community retrench in some other portion of their expenditures, from which less permanent evil would flow, than from retrenchment in their contributions to such an institution as the Board.

The appeal then is made to the friends of Christ and of missions. With the field white to the harvest and perfectly accessible; with urgent solicitations from many of the missions for large reinforcements; with nearly one hundred candidates, male and female, ready or soon to be ready to go and labor among the heathen; with greater and more varied facilities than ever were possessed before for turning their labors, with the divine blessing, to the best account; with revivals of religion existing at a number of the missions, and the religious state of most of them uncommonly promising; yet with the treasury embarrassed with a debt of about $40,000; with the unavoidable monthly expenditures amounting to nearly $25,000; and with the monthly receipts falling much below that amount, and the prevalent pecuniary distress threatening a still further reduction,—what course must the Board pursue?

May it not be hoped that the friends of Christ and the heathen will afford such aid as may be in their power; and especially that their prayers will ascend with faith and importunity that the work of the Lord in converting the nations may not be retarded?

Rev. Ira Tracy,

Singapore.

Mississippi Conf. Aug. 1st, 1849.

To the Brethren at Vicksburg.

Dear Brethren,

I write you by the mission
ary from the 17th of May, I stated the limitation that the Com-
mittee found necessary to place upon your annual
expenses. That limitation was $7.000. We accompany
our printed Circular with this upon that the Committee
are compelled to make a reduction of that sum of $1.500.
As the providential circumstances of the country, & of the
state of prospects of the Mission, are imperative on them,
they must be so in you. The above sum will more than
meet your present expenses, & you will plainly under-
stand that if it is necessary to reduce the expenses
of the mission to the amount of $5,500. We have confi-
dence in your faithful co-operation with the Committee
of the Conference, & we most cheerfully it is complied with
by all the missions, the receipts may you have ordered to have
free course in our work.

Of course Mr Ryan's house & land cannot be pur-
chased at present, & your building must be deferred, & rent
of your church be increased. In the end, perhaps the loss to
your mission may not be great, as you can give the more time to

~~Yours & the publications for work.~~ The trial is so painful, so overwhelming that we must look as much as possible to the bright side; — yet not so much as to lose our impression of it as a ~~[redacted]~~ rebuke & chastisement, & the benefits hence arising.

The orders for the most of the ~~Missions~~ cannot be answered only in part, for the present; & disregarding those which have been sent, it will be well, with your present light & knowledge on the subject, to make out an order entirely new, requesting only such things as you know to be necessary. As you are organized as a mission, the orders for articles needed by the mission, i.e. for printing establishment, seminary, schools, etc. should come in the name and with the sanction of the mission. Of course they must be ~~signed~~ come either from the mission, ~~by the missionaries~~ in a joint letter, or in a letter from the secretary of the mission, or from a committee to whom that department is entrusted by the mission. It is easy for you, if possible, to find out what each station should be paid & system. Now the case is understood between us, a conformity to this rule will be necessary to secure attention to your orders, except in relation to articles for your personal benefit.

I have written to Dodt. Fraught that his station will not be at his disposal. He will have my letter before you

~~It~~ ~~may perhaps be able to give~~ ~~and this Committee~~
~~is not desirous that they should~~ ~~their opinions~~ ~~upon~~
~~them.~~

There is no other part of the heathen world, ~~concerning~~
~~which we are~~ ~~so little~~ ~~disposed to decide absolutely~~
~~on the location of Missionaries,~~ as in the Archipelagos ~~there, the Committee~~ ~~might~~ ~~positively~~ ~~say to~~
~~the~~ Friendly Islands; ~~but we do~~ ~~not feel~~ ~~disposed~~ ~~to~~
~~a permanent mission~~ ~~upon~~ ~~any part of the Coast~~ ~~which~~
~~has not been visited by the Deputation~~ ~~This is the Committee~~
~~disposed~~ ~~towards~~ ~~Going~~ ~~at Native Missionaries~~ ~~and should~~
~~be too much restricted thereon~~ ~~We have proposed~~ ~~that the~~
~~proposal of such~~ ~~Stations by the other Deputies~~ ~~at Canton~~,
~~had some~~ ~~reference~~ ~~to a Settlement~~ ~~on~~ ~~the Formosan~~
~~precedent~~ ~~Enquiry~~. ~~We~~ ~~are disposed~~ ~~to think~~ ~~that~~
~~I ought to say~~ ~~frankly~~, ~~that~~, ~~notwithstanding that~~
~~great Potentiality of the~~ ~~the~~ ~~Committee~~ ~~upon the~~
~~whole~~ ~~to~~ ~~Native~~ ~~agency~~, ~~we~~ ~~have~~ ~~doubts~~ ~~of~~ ~~their~~
~~being~~ ~~Enquirers~~ that dispensaries ~~might not be~~ admitted into all
~~parts~~ of ~~Polynesia~~. We are inclined to believe that
their good influence, on the whole, upon the real prosperity of the ~~Missions~~, has been much overrated. Should
they become murderers in our mission, they would form
a large item of expenditure — not to name other drawbacks to their utility. ~~We~~ at present advised, ~~the Committee~~

do not feel authorized to subscribe any thing, although I am
for such institutions either in China, Siam, Singapore or
elsewhere. There is no objection, in principle, to this matter to
supporting hospitals for seamen, from our own as
any other nation. I was led to this remark by
the correspondence between Mr. Travelli & Mr. Balestier,
which appeared in the "Globe" newspaper on the
22d inst. Mr. Travelli communicates to Mr. B.
the following resolution of the Legislature, viz: "Resolved,
that Mr. Travelli be a committee to fit up the room
formerly occupied by the Mahsay school, for the accommo-
dation of American sailors who are sick, & that Mr.
Balestier be informed that the Legislature will receive
& take care of, without charge, such sailors & sailors may
think need medical advice & assistance." This resolution
coming before the board without your explanation
they do not suppose it originates with the States. The case exactly
as it is. Probably there has been a subscription among
merchants & others to meet the expenses of such an in-
stitution. The language of the resolution, however, implies
that the expense is to be borne from the treasury of
the mission. To this there are unanswerable objections. The
donations to the Board are not made for such purposes,

[illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~

One thing in particular is that that Dickins should make Singapore, and Canton, the central points of his operations, his chief places of resort, & his home. We have appointed him as specially called to devote himself, after acquiring the language, to such objects as far as they may be found advisable.

The death of Mr. Stevens was as unexpected, as it is mysterious — just as he was entering on his useful career! Verily the Lord's ways & thoughts are not ours; & right they are so to be better, even when he takes from us & bestows by death.

I was sorry the Deal that so many of you had a tedious voyage from Batavia to Singapore. We have no way of learning what both at a distance but that which is common to all mankind by information, printed written, or verbal, or else by our own experience; & from neither of these sources had we decided grounding intimation as to the great length of the voyage at certain seasons. We knew the distance & that the voyage had been performed in a few days. I thank you for the particular information on the subject. I supposed you understood that we sent you by way of Batavia, because we could not send you direct to Singapore. As it was necessary for you to go that way we mentioned such

admirals ~~at once~~ [illegible] to Batavia. Had we adopted ~~the proposition~~ [illegible] you would not have gone to this day, [illegible] not for many months to come. Mr. Boyce, ~~an~~ [illegible] missionary whom I ~~had~~ ~~commend~~ to visit in a letter, and to us [illegible] & prefers going by way of Batavia ~~as well as~~ to Singapore. I have told him about the ~~inconvenience~~ to encounter. Mr. Dickinson's letter of Jan. 17 [illegible] On behalf of the mission ~~that~~ [illegible] to Singapore no less than two companies of missionaries [illegible] Batavia have left for that ~~island~~ in regard to which I wish you had mentioned ~~particularly~~ the ~~number~~ quantity of water ~~needed~~. A knowledge of the quantity is material, as the question of passengers as to the proper quantity to be afforded could be ~~readily~~ ascertained. I have myself been a minister of ~~water~~, ~~and~~ always washed ~~by myself~~ ~~after~~ ~~eating~~ my mouth, in salt water, & ~~think~~ it ~~unnecessary~~ that ~~females~~ ~~should~~ The ladies should not unless they choose. should be expected to do this. In the cases referred to, was not water enough allowed for drinking & cooking? Pray, was the ~~drinking~~ only thing, [illegible] the daily allowance ~~of~~ ~~present~~ ~~limited~~ ~~quantity~~

time [illegible] to an unreasonable use of the best [illegible] in the early part of the Mystic?

The first question in the letter first referred to, that for the passage of missionaries we should "take the best ships possible without regard to the expense or the ports from which the sail" we receive with one statement. We do & always must have some regard to expense, & to the convenience of missionaries (i.e. to the wishes & comfort of missionaries, & of ourselves, in determining the port from which they shall sail. The expense of passage however, is the same in large vessels & in small vessels. But we are compelled, & no doubt missionary societies always will be, whether they send out many missionaries or few, to have regard to the amount of expenditure in sending forth missionaries, even at the sacrifice of comfort, & some risk of health. The constraint will arise from the scarcity of means. And why should missionaries be exempt from this? Their brethren at home, & others in the ministry, the pastors of churches, every year suffer immensely in health & comfort, for want of means to command the kind of living, the amount of exercise, the change of climate, etc. etc. etc. which they greatly need. It may be true that the ship ought to furnish

[illegible]

to a certain extent [illegible]

[illegible] this connection [illegible] the Committee feel [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

of this or that particular thing; how he knows, that it is actually given to mitigate or attenuate, by its many qualities, has an immediate value, proportioned to the excellence of its quality & the simplicity of its use. The Committee are persuaded that a change must take effect of some kind, diminishing the extensive ^ operation ~ of the Imposition, or even if left unaltered, must be felt more severely.

We remain, in consequence of your letter, more especially I believe since Mr. Dickinson's strengthen the impression I have had for some time, that we must aim more at concentration, & less at diffusion. The mode of seed broadcast may do where the soil is perfectly prepared, but the soil is seldom prepared for it in the eastern world except by a concentration of labor. The system of Berne family under any will be apt to lead to concentration. We have another in Ceylon, & shall soon have another at Madura. We have an institution in the Sandwich Islands, & one among the Indian nations. We may have it in Siam, & ought to have it there as soon as possible.

[illegible] of the Antipedo,
[illegible] Thursday [illegible]. At the same time
should [illegible] the distribution of both among those
who can read, [illegible] [illegible] for added
value to the [illegible] for new missions. Such
[illegible] must [illegible] from the more distributed
of the texts.

Mr. Dickinson, in a letter dated Dec. 28th, writes
in behalf of the mission, [illegible] certain inquiries. In
behalf of the mission.

"1. Where is the [illegible] of the old texts? Is it in
the mission, [illegible] as in the cases having a vote, or in a [illegible],
co-pastors? Have the retired members anything to do
with [illegible] of the Church?" [illegible]

In determining the form of church government in a mission, the majority of voters entitled to vote in the mission [illegible] & Regulations of the Board, section 6, paragraph 1) must be decisive. After this remark, all I have to say is simply explanatory of usages in these matters. Sometimes the organization of a church is delayed, not seeming to be called for. In that case

all matters [illegible] decided by the native
churches. The ordained missionaries act as pastors
in turn, according to the rule agreed upon. I believe
it has hitherto been rarely found, except in the
Indian missions, [illegible] the native mind has made
sufficient advance to entrust the native members of the
church could be entrusted with much of any
responsibility in the govt of the ch. They cannot be
entrusted with a general vote, as in congregational
churches, nor can any portion of them be entrusted
with the duties & responsibilities of elders, as in
the Presbyterian chs. The native churches
are therefore, & for sometime, perhaps a great
while, must be peculiar in their organization
& status in Christ — under tutors & governors —
resembling in this respect, I apprehend, the
apostolical chs; only less capable of self-
government, than were those in the
civilized portion of the Roman empire,
that are the only ones of which we have
any account. The missionary pastors have
to think & act for their chs — virtually & really
if not formally. This is what we should expect,
& knows much of heathenism, & of converts from heathen

"2. Were any of the members of the mission and
presbyteries & other organizations, that should
be [illegible] pursued?"

There never known any difficulty in fact.
The brethren conference the matter in practical and
ecclesiastical relations at home as they exist & perform,
& such is easily done. Their circumstances [illegible] a
[illegible] people, with converts not titled to any of the
existing forms of church organization, are peculiar,
& they easily open wide fields of mutual
association for mutual improvement, & Paul
seems the word they have in mind [illegible]

"3. Are the sisters of the mission & the assistant
missionaries members of the church, & if so are they
in the usual mode dismissed from the church in Assam
on which they belong & recommended to the
mission church?"

Generally the missions have a church organiza-
tion of some kind to which missionaries & others belong
& with the sisters. [illegible] Dismission &
recommendation from their church in America.

"4. Are the natives, converts & trained & formed
with reference specially or exclusively to the
native ministry, or & them in connection with

the English & American members?"

In some instances, I know, & I should suppose generally, it is found to be necessary to have articles, covenants & rules made expressly for the native members adapted to their peculiar character, habits & conditions.

"5. Is the church constituted with a view to receiving European residents who may desire to unite with it?"

The mission church is that part of the church which, covenant & rules, which is adapted to the lay portion of the mission & is adapted also to the Europeans.

My letter has grown so long — especially considering how lately I wrote that I must not say more at present.

Letters rec^d:— viz:- Plan of Mission Premises (ack^d May 17th) Report on location of Mahua Aroa & Attiu:- Papers & Documents relating to the purchase of Mr. Ryan's house & land:- Mr. S. Rodgers letter dated Jan. 10 & Feb. 3, 1837:- Mr. Dickinson's dated Dec. 28 & 31, 1836, & Jan. 17, 1837:- Mr. Merrill's dated Jan. 6, 1837:- Mr. Norris's dated Dec. 24. 1836.

Deriding affect. regards, Yours brethren, Ever most truly yours,

R. Armstrong,

Revd A. D. C. F. M.

I send a copy of Mr. Bacon's sermon
to explain more fully the state of
the times.

R. a.

Extract from the Record of the Boston Post, June 13, 1897.

"Rowley, - Rev. Alexander Thompson of Rowley has issued a manifesto to the members of his church against a municipal ball to be given in Lyceum hall on the Fourth of July, with reference to Mr. Bacon's sermon delivered in the Congregational church on Sunday evening."

R. a.

Rev. R. Anderson.

June 27. 1837

Rec'd Nov 8. 1837

Answ'd Nov. 29th 1837

1836.

Jan. 1. Amount paid for buildings by I. Tracy, viz):—

Printing office		$ 2,015. "
Chinese D°		171.90
Dwelling house		1805.09
Fence		20.07
Repairs		17.44
		$ 4029.50

" paid by A. North, viz.

House for type founder	96.20	
do Chinese printers	133. "	
do Malay teacher & others	196. "	
Iron Bars for Windows & other additions to buildings	56.90	
Atap roofs	12.19	
Furniture of above buildings	75.67	
Repairs	41.06	
Walls & fences	63.57	674.59
" paid for land & interest on price		1156.66
		$ 5,860.75

Was this a pay^{t} for Mr. Thomsen's land?
R. A.

Boston May 19. 1838.

My Dear Sir,

I find the above items in Mr. Tracy's a/c for 1836. Whether the land is that which Mr. Thomsen wished to sell I do not know. As the brethren in Java will have been put to inconvenience for want of funds, it might be well to mention to Dr. DeWitt, perhaps, that for some time, owing to commercial embarrassments, there were difficulties in the way of making remittances; specie being very high & there being an uncertainty in regard to the sale of Bills of Exchange; and afterwards, for several months we had no opportunity to send. In Nov^{r} & Dec. I sent them Six hundred pounds sterling.

Yours very affectionately, H. Hill

Rev. Rufus Anderson, D. D.

New York.

issiona-
only in

Mr Anderson

Rev. M. B. Hope,
(for the Mission)
Singapore.

Ship Albion.

CIRCULAR TO THE MISSIONS.

Missionary Rooms, Boston, June 23, 1837.

To the Brethren at Singapore.

Dear Brethren—You will doubtless have heard, before this reaches you, of the commercial distress which has come upon our country, and upon the whole mercantile world. It began to be felt here last summer, and has ever since been growing more and more severe. Owing to this in part, and partly to the fact that a number of the missions had increased their expenditures with unexpected rapidity, (though not more rapidly than the state of the missions seemed to require,) the Board last fall was indebted nearly 39,000 dollars. Sixty missionaries and assistant missionaries were then waiting to be sent forth. The Committee, in view of the condition and prospects of the treasury, hesitated to send them. They, however, referred the case, as far as it could be done, to the patrons of the Board. From every quarter the response was urgent that there should be no delay in sending the missionaries. At Hartford, during the annual meeting of the Board, and subsequently at New York, Boston, and elsewhere, liberal pledges of pecuniary support were given in case the missionaries were sent. Indeed there could be no mistake as to the wishes of the community, and its determination to sustain the Board in this measure—so consonant with the command of Christ and the obvious duty of the churches. The missionaries were accordingly sent, at an expense of about 30,000 dollars;—*but the pledges have been redeemed only in part.* This has been owing to a state of things in the commercial world so unprecedented and peculiar, that it could hardly have been anticipated. Riches have almost literally taken to themselves wings and fled away. Merchants, manufacturers, banking institutions, etc., have had to struggle for very existence. The banks throughout the country have ceased to redeem their notes with specie. Multitudes have suffered an utter wreck of their property. The value of every description of property has depreciated. Every kind of business has suffered; and, to heighten the evil, the price of almost all the necessaries of life has every where been unusually great.

To the praise of divine grace it should be stated, however, that there has been an advance in the receipts of the Board, during the financial year which ends on the 31st of July. The receipts for ten months have been 201,000 dollars, and for the year they will probably be about 240,000. Last year, they were 176,000. Our expenditures last year, were 215,000 dollars. Most of the missions are so distant that it was hardly possible for the Committee to diminish their expenses the present year. Still,—excepting the debt of the Board and the expense of the reinforcements sent out last autumn,—the expenditures of the present year will not exceed those of the last. Including those two items, they may be about 285,000 dollars.

You perceive that our debt at the next annual meeting, will be greater than it was at the last. It will probably not be less than 45,000 dollars.

What now are the prospects of the treasury for the coming year? Last fall, the Committee made an estimate—founded generally upon the returns of the missions—of the remittances necessary to sustain the existing operations of the several missions. The sum total, not including the cost of exchange, was 182,000 dollars. You have been informed of the proportion of this sum which fell to your mission, and that you would be expected not to exceed it.* But it is now evident that the receipts of the Board will not be such as to enable the Committee to remit this amount. Should the average monthly receipts be 19,000 dollars, and not a missionary be sent forth during the year, and should 182,000 dollars be remitted, as was proposed, to the missions, the Board would be no better off in the fall of 1838, in a pecuniary point of view, than it is now. But will there be this rate of receipts? The state of the country has already been adverted to. No alleviation is perceived in any quarter, except what grows out of a cessation of business. No one can tell when the banks will resume the payment of specie. Bank and manufacturing stocks yield almost no income. The backwardness of the season threatens another scarcity of bread-stuffs, and where is the credit, where are the silver and gold, to import them from abroad? To an alarming extent, men's losses and their fearful looking for of judgments have affected their minds, bringing a sort of paralysis upon the heart and conscience. There is a kind of stupifying amazement, and a suspended animation of the moral principle so far as benevolent operations are concerned. What is given seems more the result of habit, than of wakeful, intelligent interest in the cause;—very unlike what it was a few months since—very unlike what we trust it will soon be again. Last autumn, good people could not bear the thought of detaining missionaries from their fields for want of funds. Their hearts and consciences were sensitive on this subject. From every quarter we were urged to send forth the messengers of the cross. From every quarter we received pledges and assurances as encouragements to send them, and at once the rate of receipts increased. And now, there are many who deeply sympathise in the afflictions of our Zion. But how many of the disciples of Jesus hear of the

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* This information has been given only to the missions beyond sea.

detention of missionaries with astonishing indifference! Indeed, no one now urges the Committee to send them. Three hundreds private appeals by letter to the more wealthy friends of the cause, have thus far been almost in vain, and our receipts are falling off. Last autumn, the detention of one missionary for want of funds, would have done harm; but as things now are, the sending forth of one would be deemed rash and unwise by our best friends. This is a severe trial to our faith, and we know not yet how severe it is to be, nor when it is to end.

The Results.

1. On the 9th of May, the Committee were constrained to decide that the five missionaries, who were ready and expecting to go forth the present month, could not be sent discreetly, in the existing state of the treasury;—and how soon they can be, is now utterly uncertain.

2. A circular letter is about being sent to the other thirty clerical missionaries, who have received appointments and most of whom will be ready and desirous to go next autumn, telling them that, according to present indications, they should make their arrangements for remaining in the country at least another year.

3. On the 20th of the present month, the Committee, on further consideration of the financial state and prospects of the Board, resolved, "That it is their unavoidable though painful duty to reduce the remittances to the missions under their care *forty thousand dollars* below the recent estimate for the coming year, so that the annual expenditure of the Board, including the existing debt, shall not exceed 230,000 dollars."

4. At the same meeting the Committee also resolved, "That, should the average monthly receipts fall short of 19,000 dollars, *a further reduction will be necessary.*"

This reduction was proportioned by the Committee among the several missions, and the Secretaries were instructed to inform you, that your expenses must by all means be brought within the assigned limits. This necessity cannot be more painful to you, than it is to us. If the excision deprives you of your right arm, it deprives us of ours; and *we* are so situated as to be constrained to sympathize with all the missions, and suffer with all. Distressing as the necessity is, the reduction can no longer be avoided. God in his holy providence has rendered it *our* duty and *your* duty, and it must be made. The reduction from the late appropriation to your mission for the year ending July 31, 1838, is $1,500 dollars, and the sum now stands at $5,500 ——. Unless a knowledge of this retrocession in our work shall rouse the churches to a serious consideration of the subject, so that by vigorous and healthful acts of self-denial they shall bring a sudden and great accession to our receipts, no larger sum than $5,500 —— will be sent you the next year, nor can a greater sum be afforded you. You are not expected to add to it by drafts on the Treasurer of the Board. From the time you receive this letter, and until otherwise instructed by the Committee, your annual expenses should not exceed the sum above named; and this is designed to cover both your expenses on the ground and the purchases made for you at home. It is a sum total, and the mission will make the best possible use of it. Probably it will be the rate of our remittance to you, until the missionaries now under appointment are on their way to their fields. Should your expenses be suffered to exceed the specified sum, the effect of every thousand dollars must be to detain one of the missionaries who are now waiting to be sent.

You suffer not alone. The Greek and Nestorian missions each makes sacrifices to the amount of 1,000 dollars; the Smyrna and Singapore missions, each 1,500; the Syrian, 1,750; the Constantinople, 2,000; the Mahrattas, 3,500; the South India, 4,800; the Ceylon, 5,000; the Sandwich Islands, 5,600; the missions to the Indian tribes, 10,000. It is not necessary to enumerate all the missions which suffer; these will suffice. We know, and the churches will know, that these reductions are effected only by disbanding schools, reducing printing establishments, stopping printing presses, arresting the progress of seminaries, etc. etc. But then there is no alternative. The Board can remit only what it receives. The community does not, and so far as we can see will not, at present, furnish adequate means. Your expenses must therefore be reduced, at any sacrifice, to the prescribed limits; or greater evils—affecting the credit and stability of the Board, the sending forth of missionaries, and your own personal support—will ensue. We humbly hope that in answer to prayer the days of this severe visitation will be shortened, and that great good will be the ultimate result; but it will be good brought out of much evil.

Meanwhile you will naturally give yourselves, more than has hitherto been possible with many of you, to study and to the preaching of the word. Indeed it may be with some reference to such a result as this, that our sovereign Lord is thus laying his hand upon our plans and labors.

In making the reductions, the following order seems most natural. (1.) All purchases of real estate for whatever purposes; long rents, where payments are to be made in advance; buildings for schools and seminaries; buildings for dwelling houses except such as are indispensable and of the most economical nature; expensive repairs of buildings; prospective improvements. (2.) Miscellaneous printing. (3.) Common schools. (4.) Reduction of boarding-schools. (5.) Reduction of seminaries. (6.) The gradual expenditure of unexpended grants of Bible and Tract Societies. (7.) Dismission of permanent native assistants. (8.) Lay-assistants in the mission. (9.) Ordained missionaries.

The preaching of the gospel is the cheapest of all agencies, and should be supported at the sacrifice (if such a sacrifice could be supposed necessary) of schools, presses, and every thing else. And we would add, that schools, presses, etc., should not be suffered, by their necessary expenses, to stand in the way of those well qualified preachers of the gospel who are ready to go forth to the heathen.

We fear that a still further reduction will be necessary, before we have seen an end to the present distress; but our waiting eyes are unto God, and yours will be in the same direction.

A word or two of caution may not be improper. (1.) The object of this curtailment is to *preserve* the credit and stability of the Board, in a season of rare perplexity and distress throughout the commercial world; and it has that tendency and effect. It has such an influence at home, and will have it abroad. Every member of the mission, therefore, will be careful neither to write nor say any thing about these measures, which will injure the credit of the Board with commercial men. (2.) The sending home of appeals to the churches, except through the officers of the Board, should be avoided. It is much more difficult now to write suitable appeals to the churches from a great distance, especially by men who have been some time out of the country, than it once was. In the present case, by the time your appeals could reach the country, the state of things may have essentially changed.

Be assured, dear Brethren, that we have a strong fellow-feeling with you. We are in distress, but not disheartened. We believe this is meant for good, and that, if rightly used, it will result in good to the Board, its committee and officers, its missions, and the christian community. A bright morning may be expected to succeed this dark night. The Lord's hand is in this dispensation. His object is to rebuke and chasten, not destroy. The churches still possess ample means, and they will not look on and see the missions waste away. We trust they will come out of this furnace like gold tried in the fire. So may you, and so may we; and let us lean more on almighty power and grace, and less on men and means. Three years hence, who will regret this severe, this needed and salutary discipline? Let us walk more by faith, less by sight; then, the objects of faith being fixed and stable, we shall be established, strengthened, settled, even amid the greatest earthly vicissitudes.

With great respect and affection, we are your brethren and fellow-servants,

R. ANDERSON,
DAVID GREENE,
WM. J. ARMSTRONG,
} *Secretaries of the A. B. C. F. M.*

Rev. Ira Tracy,

Singapore.

From Mr. Anderson to Dr. Tracy.

Missionary Rooms, Boston, June 26, 1837.

Dr. Stephen Tracy,

Singapore,

My Dear Sir: Your two letters dated Jan. 14, 1837, were duly received, and the subject of your being stationed at Singapore has been before the Committee. The Committee are unanimously of opinion that your station should be elsewhere. Your feelings of desire to reside with your brother, which are natural and proper, being out of view, the reasons are all in favor of your going to another station. Messrs. Hope, Dickinson, and Travelli, are all physicians in a greater or less degree. Six brethren, not including Mr. Dickinson, have been designated to Singapore, and Mr. Dickinson will no doubt make his home there. In the present attitude of our affairs, it is doubtful whether the

six brethren will all find full employment there at present. The station at Singapore is solely with reference to a seminary and the press; and no more should <u>reside</u> there, than are needed for these objects. On the whole, the Committee adhere to their original views in relation to yourself, that you should labor in some other field. <u>Dispensaries</u> will <u>not</u> form a part of our system of labors. They will receive no patronage from the Committee. They are expensive, take up a great deal of time, and are a diversion from our main object. I think you ought not to go to Canton, or Macao. I am more and more persuaded that there is no way to get a strong and permanent hold of a heathen people but to acquire the language in the first instance, and then to go <u>right at</u> them with the gospel. The body

must be made a secondary object. While you act as a physician to the missionaries, among the heathen every thing should be made subordinate to teaching them about Jesus Christ and him crucified.

As to your most appropriate field, my first thoughts are directed to Siam. I doubt whether Mr. Arms has yet found the field in Borneo which we shall be inclined to cultivate permanently; but further research may develope other facts of deeper interest. We are more for <u>concentration</u> than we have been, less for spreading abroad. God is teaching us new lessons by the unparalleled embarrassments of the times. You will do well to enter your permanent field soon, if you can find it. The Lord direct you. Desiring affectionate respect to Mrs. Tracy,

I am most truly yours, sign'd/ R. Anderson,
Sec. of A.B.C.F.M.

Letter from Mr Anderson
to Dr S. Tracy
June 26. 1857
Rec'd Nov. 3. 1857

Missionary Rooms of the A. B. C. F. M., Boston, October 20, 1837.

To *the Brethren of the Singapore Mission.*

DEAR BRETHREN,—At the late annual meeting of the Board, four general rules were adopted, to which we would invite your attention.

1. "It shall be the duty of the Prudential Committee to affix a limit to the annual expense of each mission."

The limitation for the present year is contained in the circular of June last, which you will have received before you do this. In that circular your expenses for the year were restricted to $ *5,500* ;—not including the grants, however, which shall have been remitted from the Bible and tract societies subsequently to to the circular. The Board, at its late meeting, adopted a resolution, recommending that this allowance be not materially increased until the missionaries now under appointment—between thirty and forty in number—shall have been sent forth. The resolution is as follows; viz. "That in the opinion of this Board it is expedient, that the rate of remittances to the several missions should continue substantially as stated in the above mentioned circular, until the missionaries now under appointment shall be sent forth to their respective fields of labor."

There is no probability that these missionaries can all be sent forth till after the next annual meeting, though we hope some of them will be sent next spring. The receipts of the Board were much greater the past year, than in any former year; but so also were its disbursements. And so remote are the more expensive missions, that the circular will not reach them, it is feared, in time to diminish very much on the whole the expenditures of the coming year. Those of the year following, however, will doubtless be considerably diminished; and about the commencement of the year 1839, the Committee hope to be able to resume their wonted course. Even before that time, they may possibly be less straitened for pecuniary means, than they are at present. But on this subject, when we consider the financial state and prospects of the country, we have many fears. Meanwhile may you and we learn all the lessons of economy and dependence, humility and caution, which our gracious Lord designed to teach us by this painful visitation.

You understand, that your annual expenses hereafter, as a mission, are to be limited to a precise sum, to be fixed from year to year by the Committee. The remittances by the treasurer will be graduated by this limitation, and you will not be authorized to draw beyond it, nor to expend more, even if more money should chance to be in the hands of the treasurer of your mission. The balance in hand will be taken into account in the remittances of the following year. The necessity for a regulation of this kind, and for adhering strictly to it, grows out of the number of our missions and the extent of our operations, as well as out of our past experience. With so many missions, so widely separated, so far from home, and each zealously engaged in prosecuting its own plans and labors, amid pressing calls and wide openings for usefulness, often without sufficient regard to the necessary cost of the other missions,—the Committee could never know the probable amount of the annual expenditures, nor whether the treasury would be able to meet them.

2. "It shall be the duty of the several missions to furnish the Prudential Committee, annually, and as far as possible in detail, with a schedule of their probable necessary expenditures, in season to permit the schedule to be acted upon by the Committee, and the results of their deliberations made known to the missions, before the time for the expenditure arrives."

This rule has already been substantially transmitted to you in a resolution of the Committee, together with the reasons for it. It is now made necessary, in order that the Committee may proceed on good ground, when complying with the requisition of the Board to assign limits to the annual expense of each mission. It is of course desirable that these limits should depend as little as possible on conjecture. Your schedule should be made, 1st, *annually*. Once a year it should become an item of business in your business meetings. 2dly, *seasonably*—in time to send it home and receive an answer before the expenses must be incurred. We are aware that the more distant missions will need to do this considerably in advance; but the Committee have no alternative, except to act in the case with such lights as they may have; and the estimates of the missions, even for the second or third year in advance, if made with care, will greatly assist them. 3dly, *in detail.* The limitation should be a *bona fide* transaction on the part of the Committee; not adopting, without examination, a gross sum recommended by the mission. The case of each mission should be fairly and fully laid before the Committee;—embracing the amount necessary for family expenses—for native helpers—for the seminary, if there is one—for boarding-schools, if there are such—for common schools—for that part of the expenses of the printing establishment, in case there is one, which is defrayed from the treasury of the Board—for purchases, in case they are thought indispensable —for building, if it be necessary—for incidentals; etc. etc. Under most of these general heads there should be specifications, with explanations and reasonings. In a separate schedule, it should be stated what sums will be needed from the Bible Society, the Tract Society, etc.

Great care will of course be taken to avoid any thing like an exaggerated estimate, or what might seem an effort to get as much money as possible from the treasury. Nothing can in the end be gained by this. It would weaken confidence in your estimates, and thus diminish their influence with the Committee, and make it difficult to use them in appeals to the christian community. The duty of the Committee, and all they can do, will be to divide the amount of funds which may be placed at their disposal among the various dependent objects. The more pains you take to make your claims properly understood, the more reason will you have to expect justice will be done you in this respect.

3. "In general, the sole object of the printing establishments connected with the missions of the Board shall be to exert a direct influence upon the surrounding native population; and no mission, or member of a mission, may print any letter, tract, or appeal at these establishments, at the expense of the Board, with a view to its being sent to individuals or communities in the United States."

The first part of this rule is based on the fact, that the sole object for which the printing establishments were sent among the heathen, is and ever has been what it is there required to be. The rule was adopted lest this peculiar and exclusive object should be overlooked and forgotten.

The propriety of the latter part of the rule, must be obvious to every one on reflection. The Board has now thirteen printing establishments. What one may properly do, all may; and if it be conceded that one of these establishments may print letters, tracts, or appeals, at the expense of the Board, to be distributed among individuals and churches in the United States, it may be presumed that all will do so sooner or later. Nay, it may be supposed that sometimes the greater part of these establishments will simultaneously be operating in this manner. At home, with pre-eminent advantages for knowing the ever-changing state of the public mind, we find it the most difficult and delicate part of our duty to address the christian community through the press, and the Committee have always been slow to trust us to our unaided discretion in matters of this kind. How then can it be safe for our brethren—after having been out of the country for years, most of them residing from six to eighteen thousand miles distant, with their latest intelligence some months and perhaps a year old, and months more to elapse before their communications reach home, and no one can tell how many intervening changes,—we say, how can it be safe for brethren thus situated to send forth printed appeals? With so many distinct and independent centres and sources of influence, should we not fall into confusion, and be in danger of losing the public ear and confidence? Missions could not be conducted on this plan. When appeals were sent forth from the Rooms, we should never know what other appeals were abroad, nor of what nature, nor how they would affect ours, nor ours them. Moreover clergymen would become vexed and alienated by the postages of printed appeals, circulars, and letters from our several missions.

Division of labor, and each man devoting his energies to his proper department of the work, are of vital importance to the great enterprise in which we are engaged. So far as appeals to the christian community from the missionaries and other agents of the Board are concerned, the responsibility for their appropriateness in time, matter, and manner, if published at the expense of the Board, is and ought to be with the Prudential Committee; and these should be submitted to the judgment of the Committee, not in a printed form, but in manuscript before going to the press.

We claim nothing for ourselves personally; but are not the gentlemen at the Missionary Rooms in the most favorable situation possible to know how an appeal would operate on the public mind? Have they not the same object with you? Are they not constantly looking out for means to awaken a higher and more general interest in missions? Who rejoices more than they at finding any thing of the kind? This is one of the special duties assigned them by Providence. On the whole, therefore, can you do better than intrust your addresses to the public to their discretion?

The printing of letters and appeals to be sent to the different missions of the Board, would be understood as violating the spirit of this rule;—but not the printing, on a small scale, which is sometimes found needful in the internal affairs of the mission.

4. "It shall not be deemed proper for any missionary, or assistant missionary, to visit the United States, except by invitation or permission first received from the Prudential Committee."

This now, for the first time, perhaps, receives the formality of a written and printed law; but the principle had universally the force of a law for many years, and even now the usage of nearly all the missions is accordant with it. The subject has been contemplated in all its bearings, and the rule is deemed worthy of particular attention. The Committee will of course be governed by it. General rules, while they secure the general good, almost inevitably occasion some partial evils. So it may be with this. The experience of the missions, however, which have acted upon it from the beginning, shows that these evils will be very few. Where it is obvious that there should be a speedy change of climate, it can almost always be found without coming home.

We have no farther remarks to make concerning these rules. But there are a few inquiries and suggestions, which come naturally in this connection, and which we commend to your candid attention.

1. God in his holy providence gives but few of the pastors of the churches at home the power of making long and expensive voyages, or journies, when health fails and life is endangered in the discharge of pastoral duty. The means are not afforded them. Such has been, is, and doubtless will continue to be generally true of the pastors of churches at home. But in respect to the foreign missionary, there is a strong tendency towards an universal custom of resorting to long voyages, or journies, however expensive, whenever the health of the missionary or his wife fails and is not likely to be benefitted without resorting to some such means. Shall we concede the propriety of this as unquestionable? If the fact be that all other means of cure have been found ineffectual, shall the voyage or the journey be regarded as a thing of course? Shall such become the rule and custom? Shall the missionary go abroad to remain only till his health fails? Shall he beforehand resolve and expect to return, if possible, in time to lay his bones in the land of his fathers? Or, shall he go for life, and adopt the people he goes to save as his people, and their country as his country, and expect to find his grave among them? How will the moral effect of these two states of mind compare? Will not the latter be better than the former?—make its possessor feel more at home in the field of his labor, and more attached to the people; more comprehensive in his plans; more systematic, patient, and persevering; more contented, cheerful, and happy? Will it not, through the divine blessing, give him better health, longer life, greater usefulness? We do not mean to intimate that the

missionary should never come home for his health. What we recommend is prayerful thought and inquiry whether there is not danger, in going from the original extreme, that missionaries should *never* come home, to the opposite extreme of regarding their return as a light matter. It is not and never will be otherwise than a deeply serious matter, having an important bearing on the prosperity of the cause of missions.

An attempt is sometimes made to weaken the force of considerations like these, by asserting that the churches are unreasonable in their requirements of missionaries, since a common obligation to carry on this work rests on all. No doubt the churches fall short of their own duty; but we do not think they place the standard of missionary duty too high. We believe all their requirements are and ever have been approved by the best intelligence and piety among the missionaries of the Board.

It is supposed, however, that the usefulness of missionaries returned to their native land is such as to make frequent visits desirable. There can be no doubt that the visits of missionaries, who have been long in the field, may sometimes be highly useful, and are so, to the churches. But these will be the more useful for being infrequent and timely. Their frequency of late years is one of the principal causes why they are less beneficial now than they formerly were. At present, there is danger of their creating disaffection in the community; and in general, a missionary can in no manner exert so good an influence on our christian community, as by quiet, self-denying, and persevering labor in his mission. We are inclined to think that such is the impression of those missionary brethren, who are now in this country. Perhaps they have thought that we could have done more to multiply their facilities for exerting influence. We do not see how we could, without injury to the permanent system of means and agencies. It has not been found in experience that returned missionaries, as such, make the most efficient agents; and, after having been home a year or two, the interest and power of their statements at anniversary meetings, are in great measure exhausted. Mr. Bardwell is the only returned missionary, whose services as an agent have been retained for a series of years. Some have supposed that if the returned misssionary were authorized to address the churches in the name and behalf of his particular mission, the effect would be greater; but we are not of this opinion. The idea of an agency from a particular mission to the churches, would not strike the community favorably.

In short, he who has become a missionary to the heathen has chosen a good work—the best, perhaps the most useful, in the world; and ordinarily he will find his usefulness and happiness diminished by changing it for any other. And as he does more good on the whole by living among the heathen, so he does more good by dying among them. He carries out his principles fully, and exemplifies them by a sort of martyrdom, which operates admirably, through the grace of God, on the spirit of missionary consecration in the churches at home.

2. There is one other point to which it is necessary to advert. The greater part of the missionaries who have come home for several years past, have been attended by one or more natives. Their arrival is announced in the papers in some such manner as this;—"Arrived as passengers in ship ———, Mr. and Mrs. ———, missionaries from ———, with their children, and *servant*, or *servants*." Such a notice is unpleasant, and gives rise to injurious remark. The frequency of such announcements has excited so much attention, that every new case is very painful to us. To make proper provision for these people while in this country, is sometimes very perplexing. And then it is often difficult to procure them a return passage. A native of Bombay, who was brought in this manner, has been waiting a year, though repeated applications have been made for a passage, and probably he will have to wait another year, till a reinforcement of the mission is sent out,—and not without expense to the Board,—unless a great price is paid for his passage. The passage money demanded for two natives of the Sandwich Islands, whom the Board is under obligation to return home, is the same in amount with that required for a missionary. All these things convince us, that circumstances will very rarely justify the bringing of such attendants to this country; unless they come as a part of the ship's crew, without any responsibility whatever resting on the missionary, or the Board, for their support while here, or their return to their native land. Experience has demonstrated the impropriety of allowing such people to be made a show of; and also that the expectation should not be entertained of their becoming instrumental of good equal to the evil they will probably do and suffer by being brought here.

We make no apology, dear Brethren, for this communication. You are entitled to such suggestions as our providential position enables us to make, and will receive them with fraternal feeling. As fellow servants of the same Master, laboring in the same cause, we must look to you in return for such information and suggestions, as God, by means of the peculiarities in your circumstances, shall enable you to communicate for our benefit.

I am, dear Brethren, as ever,

most truly yours,

R. Anderson,

Sec. of A. B. C. F. M.

Rev. Ira Tracy,
American Missionary,
Singapore,

Case F
Wm Paine, Strieker & Co, Batavia, Java.

New York City, Dec. 8. 1837.

To the Brethren at Singapore.

Dear Brethren;

I have the pleasure of introducing to you the Rev. Messrs. Mitchell & Dyer, of the General Assembly's Board of Foreign Missions, who are going out to be fellow Labourers with you in that part of the world. You will be happy to cultivate a fraternal acquaintance with them, & to give them such aid & encouragement as may be in your power. Receive them into your christian confidence & fellowship as missionaries of the churches & brethren beloved.

Pray, Dear Brethren, as ever,

most truly yours,

R. Anderson, Sec. of the

A. B. C. F. M.

Present, (for it is not yet over) address of the

Rev. Ira Tracy & others,

Signature.

Rec'd
Messrs. Mitchell & W.

Missionary Rooms of the A.B.C.F.M.

Boston, Dec. 28. 1837.

To the Brethren of the Mission at Singapore.

Dear Brethren,

I wrote you a letter of three or four sheets June 27th, & at the same time sent you a copy of the Circular on retrenchments; also a letter to Bombay. July 13th sent a duplicate of the Circular. Dec. 11th sent a copy of the printed letter or laws adopted at the last meeting of the Board. This, goes by the Barque Mary Frazier, Capt. Sumner, with whom I am in part vessel the large reinforcement to the Sandwich Islands went last year. Capt. S., with one of his mates & three or four of his crew, became hopefully pious during the voyage.

The following communications are to be acknowledged; viz.

Returns from the mission for 1836; rec'd Feb. 25, 1837.

Messrs. Hoisington & Ravelli, dated March 13th, Feb. 22 & May 2d & 9th, May 12th

Mr. I. Tracy, Journal Feb. 26, 1836, etc. etc.

Mr. Dickinson, dated June 27th.

Mr. Hoisington, dated March 28th, & July 1st, two letters.

present, (for it is entered over) either of the

Mr. Travelli, dated Feb. 17th, March 20th, & April 12th.

Mr. North, dated March 30th.

Lieut. S. Tracy, dated Feb. 20th, March 18th, & July 3d.

I have already written to Mr. Hill an answer to one of his letters of July 1st, & so by the many Foreign authorizing his visiting this country at such time as may be thought proper by the mission.

I must see Mr. Hill before it can be determined how far we can comply with your requests for apparatus & books for the Seminary, just now. Another year we may hope, through the favor of Providence, to possess more ample means.

A reference to the Annual Report of your mission will show you the views we have communicated to the London Missionary Society on the subject of interference. I had previously written the same to Mr. Ellis. No reply has yet been received. I apprehend no difficulty from that Society.

I am expecting Mr. Dickinson's journal of his voyage in the Himmaleh with great interest. The abstract in his letter has already been in no small degree useful in my correspondence with the brethren

of the Java mission. Those brethren will doubtless correspond with you. They are prohibited by the Government from establishing a mission on Java, Celebes, & the Moluccas, & are permitted to do so on Borneo. Of course they are not forbidden to go to Gillolo, or to the large islands southeastward of Java, which do not belong to the Netherlands. Nor is Sumatra forbidden ground. We do not, however, think well of their going to Sumatra, nor to Banca. Their attention will of course be turned principally to Borneo. Two of them are studying Chinese; the other two Malay. We advise them to make two missions; the Malay branch to be kept emphatically Dutch; the other probably cannot be, the Chinese communities there are so scattered. The brethren for the Chinese are recommended to establish a mission, if possible, in one of the large Chinese communities on Borneo — the independent one, if practicable, in Borneo-proper. If the Malay branch cannot obtain a good site further north, it will seek a post on the great island. You will doubtless hear from them after they shall receive my letter by Mr. Mary Frazier.

Perhaps I (for it is not yet over) should of our

I am anxious to hear the effect which the Circular of June will have upon your operations. Mr. Hill is apprehensive that you will have suffered great embarrassment for want of funds. If you have not been promptly supplied with bills, Mr. Hill will no doubt explain the reason. He makes you a remittance by this opportunity.

We shall of course receive from you new estimates & proposals in view of the limitation which it is found necessary to impose on your annual expenses at a mission. You would make many purchases, etc. etc. if you were to receive $12,000 a year, which you would not think of, if you were to receive only 5,500, or 7,000 dollars.

We are hoping that we shall be able to send out your helpers in the Spring, but the event is not so certain as we could wish.

I think of nothing more which it is important to write now. Desiring an interest in your prayers, & praying the Lord to bless you continually, I am, as ever, most truly yours,

R. Anderson, Sec. &c. &c.

P.S. Your last packages came by way of New York, & were charged $5.46 postage, $1.31 of which was for seven envelopes.

P. S. There are two vessels about to sail, the Mary Frazier & the Windsor; but as it is uncertain whether either of them will do more than another will touch the buoys at Batavia, both declining taking any freight. We send letters, & shall try to get the papers, pamphlets, &c. on board of the Mary Frazier. I regret that we cannot send no apparatus, books &c. There is an effort on the part of all the vessels from Boston now going to those parts to steal away privately. Two succeeded in doing so, so far as we were concerned.

perhaps
prevent, (for it is not yet over) distress of our com-

Rev R. Anderson
Dec 28. 1837
Rec'd Apr. 24 1838
Ans? May 9.

Rev Matthew B. Hope,

Lafayette.

Mary Frazier

On board North River Steamboat,

May 21, 1838.

To the Brethren of the Singapore Mission.

Dear Brethren

The ship Albion, that takes this letter, carried to you the brethren you have long expected, viz. Messrs. Ball & Ward, with their wives. Mr. & Mrs. Ball have long been teachers, & will be helpful to continue in the employment. I understand they have made a beginning of the Chinese language. My story in prefix is that it will be well for Mr. Wood to make the Chinese his principal language.

Your discoveries concerning the small number of readers in the Archipelago, & the stand taken by the Netherlands government if persisted in, must almost necessarily have some effect on our plans at Singapore. The Lots, or rather Providence, (for it is not yet over) disposes of the em-

munity, does not lead us to modify any of our plans, for we regard it as a temporary cause. We see no reason, however, as yet for any material alteration in our plans in relation to Singapore. Our printing establishment will grow less rapidly than we expected, & perhaps also our seminary; but probably it will be long before so good a place for a centre, where missionaries may prepare for usefulness, will be found. I shall move for an increase of your annual allowance as soon as we can command the means. The annual rate, from the time you receive this letter till further directions, will be seven thousand two hundred dollars, ($7.200.) I believe that £600 of the large remittance now made by you to our treasurer, belongs to the Java mission. Mr. Hill will of course write. The above sum includes Dodt. Tracy's expenses.

On the 11th of December I sent you, by the Ship New York, a copy of our printed Circular upon the laws adopted by the Board at its last meeting. On

the 28th I wrote ~~me~~ you by the many Frenzies. By the same opportunity I also wrote Mr. Hope. Since then until now, there has been no vessel going to the Archipelago.

I have received, however, a considerable number of letters, which I will acknowledge; viz. Several letters, dated Feb. 18, 21, Nov. 20, Nov. 28, Dec. 4 & 5, Nov. 29 & Dec. 5. Duplicate of papers relating to purchase of land at Singapore. Dupl.e of letters relating to location of Malays. Terms & R.V.Wms. several forms for power of attorney for the Treasurer.

Letter from a part of the mission in the subject of the Straits returns to the Archipelago.

Messrs. Hope & Travelli, Feb. 28 & May 18, 1837 (Dupl.s)

Mr. Tracy (Ira) dated April 20, Nov. 9, 21, Dec. 8, 11.

Mr. Dickinson, dated Feb. 2, 13, Oct. 10, Dec. 12. Journal, three parts. Copy of his letter to Mr. King.

Mr. Hope, dated Feb. 18, & Dec. 7th.

On the subject of the purchase from Mr. Thomson, & formerly a missionary of the London Missionary Society at Singapore, we have had much cor-

respondence with the London Society. With regard to the printing establishment, — it appears that the Society did not claim a property in that, but were intending to purchase it, but not at the exorbitant price set by Mr. Thomsen, at first placed upon it. We shall be able to show them that, in the circumstances of the case, our purchase of it was not improper interference, considering our view of the facts in the case.

— With respect to the land, which Mr. Thomsen has so long been endeavoring, but in vain, to convey to us, I send you an extract from Mr. Ellis's letter; from which it appears that the London Society regard it as not belonging to Mr. Thomsen in any proper sense, but to the Society itself. Their view of the case must be the correct one; & we wish you should immediately inform us; — 1.) Whether anything has actually been paid for it. 2.) What is the actual value of it at the present time. 3.) Whether any & what buildings were upon it, at the time of its transfer from Mr. Thomsen (such as it was) or his departure from Singapore. 4.) What

buildings have been erected upon it at the expense of the
Board, at what cost; what is their present use & dispo-
sal. 5./ What you would suggest as expedient to be
done, in case the land is given up to the London so-
ciety. In short, acquaint me with whatever facts
may be necessary to bring the business to an ami-
cable & satisfactory settlement with the Saints. I
should myself be glad to know what reputation
Mr. Thompson has left behind him at Liverpool.
If there is any probability that he will
still claim the land — as I think there is it will
throw on the London Saints the necessity of meeting
the claim by putting them in possession of it.
— I was myself absent from Boston when the
Committee passed the resolutions authorising the
purchase of the press, land, etc. & Mr. Thom-
son, or I should probably have prevented it
until some correspondence had been held with
the Saints in London; as I had heard some unfa-
vourable reports concerning him before that time; &

always apprehended evil. My apprehensions at last led me to commence a correspondence on the subject. Mr. Ellis's letter is in reply to mine.

Your destitution of money last [illegible] autumn was chiefly owing to the fact, that our bills drawn in favor of the missions in your part of the world were in the hands of the agent of the Messrs. Barings & Co., waiting for his approval, four months & a half, during the great panic last Spring. The alledged cause of the delay was proposed [illegible] business. It was wrong, but we endured it as long as we could, rather than have a falling out. At other times, before & since, he has been very prompt, & he like ourselves will not probably [illegible] again. May a kind Providence [illegible] taught you how to submit, & keep your pockets together.

What I have most feared is, that your mission & other missions would begin at length

to have fears that this ~~continuance~~ reduced scale of
operations was becoming a part of the system.
This would not be right, as you are too
ready to interpret the cause of temporary
nature, such as operations where we. Even
the brethren who are detained among us
do some of them catch the feeling unseemly,
that things are never going to the-
ward as they are. This is the language, not
of reason, but of suffering feeling. The fact is, our
good ship has been in a terrible tempest,
but there are symptoms of returning fair
weather, & when it comes we hope once
more to spread sail to the favoring breeze
of heaven. So far as cargo has been thrown
overboard to lighten & save the ship, there is
less; but we ought to be thankful it is no
worse. There is a dark side, that I know of no
particular benefit to me or you, which will

aside from looking at it in this view. In some respects
Mechanisburg may have lost in moral principle,
but in others they have gained. The abhorrent
feeling is probably nothing more than a develope-
ment of what actually existed before. Self knowledge
is as important for the character, as it is for indi-
viduals. — On the whole let us thank God, & take
courage. We shall see better times, ere long.

I think it will not be well for any
any of the Letters respecting Mr. Avery, sent
you sent home, before the Committee; as
Mr. A. has written me, that, in view of the
state of his health, he shall think it his duty
to ask a dismission from the service of the
Board.

You will learn from the brethren of the
Ref. Dutch Church, that "we think it probable"
there should be but one missionary field made of
the district including Lambas & Pontiana; i. e.
if the chief work is to lie between Mankawo

places; & that we postpone giving this to the
brethren of that mission.

I believe the greater part of the Dictionaries valuable journal will appear in the Herald. In these times, it would be in vain to propose to a bookseller to publish it in a volume, though it well deserving of such a dress. The Herald has a great circulation, & it is singular enough that it has considerably increased the last six or eight months, so that we soon shall be obliged to reprint some of the numbers of the current volume.

Desiring affect. regards to your partner,

I am, Dear Brethren, as ever,

most truly yours,

R. Anderson,
Sec. of A. B. C. F. M.

P.S. Must commend to your kind attention the brethren Benson & Pohlman & their wives.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Mr. Ellis, Fn. Sec. of the London Missionary Society, dated London Feb. 7. 1838.

We have already informed you of the circumstances under which the printing establishment at Singapore was sold by Mr Thomsen to yr brethren. Mr Thomsen offered to us the whole including ground, buildings and materials, viz: types & presses for a sum not exceeding £ 600. The offer being made without the knowledge of the Missionaries at the adjacent stations; and our doubt as to Mr Thomsen's title to the land, together with, as it appeared to us, the exorbitant sum asked, induced us to decline Mr Thomsen's proposal. We wrote to the Missionaries in 1831 requesting their opinion on Mr Thomsen's proposal; and though they considered the price too high, yet they recommended its purchase; and some of them also informed us it might be obtained at a lower sum: we therefore sent out instructions for its purchase. In the mean time circumstances occurred which required Mr Thomsen to leave Singapore: he readily accepted the offer of yr brethren at Canton, and thus rendered nugatory our instructions for its purchase.

We are aware that the ground on which the buildings, comprising the printing establishment, are erected, was given to Mr Thomsen, and stand in his name in the register of the land office at Singapore; but we always regarded the land as belonging to the Society, having been given, as other lands in Singapore were, viz: to Mr Thomsen, as the agent of the Society. The lands on which the mission chapel and the mission house stand were given to him and registered in the same way. It therefore still appears to us that the Society has a moral and equitable claim upon the land. We do not know whether yr purchase included the land as well as the buildings and materials, we are conse-

quently unable to offer any remarks upon yr proposal to transfer yr purchase to us. We do not consider that we have a claim to any part of the establishment except the land, and should be glad to be informed whether the land was purchased with the Dress, types &c. The ground is close by our mission premises. Mr Thomsen always described the press as at the back of our Mission House; its proximity to our previously Existing establishment strengthens our opinion that it was given for the use of our Mission, and should its occupancy by our brethren be found necessary for the purposes of their mission, we shall be happy to arrange in such manner as may be considered satisfactory for its annexation to that on which our Mission House now stands.

If not required for our Mission we apprehend no difficulty will be experienced in arranging either with yrselves or authorizing our Missionaries to arrange with yr brethren at Singapore for its permanent transfer to yr Society.

Mr Anderson

W. Anderson

The Revd M. B. Hope, and the

other American Missionaries of

the A. B. C. F. M.

Singapore.

Ship Albion.

Miss. Herald Vol. [illegible]

Mayen May 24 1858

Rec'd July 17 –

Aug. 22. 1858

Rec'd Oct 3rd 1838

[illegible] Missionary Packet [illegible]

[illegible] 15 [illegible] 1838

To the Brethren at Singapore.

Dear Brethren,

My last letter was dated May 21st

and went by the Albion. I took out the Brethren

Ball, Thomsen, Ward & Pohlman, & their wives. They

[illegible] there [illegible] I do not

notice for writing

[illegible] have a packet [illegible] from Bonn to Singapore

without them. I have nothing new to say.

I have written to Mr. Ellis,

[illegible] this with the

facts in our [illegible] the purchase from

Mr. Thomsen, & [illegible] that we shall

with [illegible] the subject when we hear

from you. I beg that you leave nothing unsaid,

[illegible] to bring the case

to a final & satisfactory settlement. Among

the things we should be glad to have is either

the powers of attorney, which Mr. Thomsen took

[illegible] from Denmark, [illegible]

to convey to us all his rights, [illegible]

After all the desirable changes within the
two or three years past, it seems desirable to
know where we stand in the Archipelago.
We shall be glad to have the results of your
mature deliberations, and to know what we should
attempt to make the Straits of Singapore;
that is to say, whether a penang establishment, & what kind of a seminary;
if we should carry out the old plan, well;
if any changes be desirable, say what they
should be. How many Brethren should be
regarded as permanently members of the
station? I mean, what number, & what
you should name the persons. With the
spirit, as to the extent
of country to occupy in the archipelago,
& the call for the productions of the press,
we are pressed that five years might

find enough to do. ~~[illegible]~~ in addition
~~[illegible]~~ the three
persons, devoted to the Christian religion
missionaries at large, made their [illegible]
there. At the same time you are aware
that we did not look upon this arrange-
ment as likely to be of many years con-
tinuance; but to be modified & reduced
as the countries opened to us, & our troops
& seminaries could be planted among them.
It is was to answer the purpose that the
island of Malta did for a time, & is, although
on a larger scale. You remember that
it was thought we could do it, & as was sup-
posed by many, at some risk, we reserved
to ourselves the right of withdrawing
to Smyrna, & a part into Syria. Some of
the reasons which led to recommending this

building of cheap houses. It

I feel anxious to hear better in regard

to my young seminary. I shall be able to survive the

pelting of the storm which has blown over

us. All the time we have been

Mr. Ames has asked & received a dis-

mission from the service of the Board. Dr. Mus-

ey of Dartmouth College, thought this indispen-

sable to the recovery of his health.

Miss Robbins will probably inform you that

we have earnestly advised his return to this

country. The advice, which has received

the fullest sanction of the Committee, is based

upon the belief, into which we have been

sometime coming, that this usefulness will

be greater in this country than among the

heathen; or rather I should say, that his

habits of mind are not adapted

to a mission in the Archipelago, or its neighboring

countries. I need not say that the success of
giving this pain to Mr. Robbins & his excellent
partner, has encouraged & gratified us. I have
made mention of the case here, that you
may understand it, & that you may be able
& cooperate with the Committee & with Mr.
Robbins, in preventing all possible evil &
securing all possible good in the premises.

For three or four days past we have
had the thermometer above 90°; & have thought
more than usual of our brethren under the
Line. May you & we, dear Brethren, live
near the Throne of Grace, & remember
us without ceasing. Remember all the missions,
too, & pray that they may be kept from all
undue excitement on any subject, & that nothing
may be suffered to divert the minds & hearts
of their members from the great work of missions.

Sir 4 Mar. 6. Dear Sir April 22. 1839.

Seminary Room of R. C. Church
Boston, Oct. 6. 1838.

To the Mother of the Chesapeake Prisoners.

Dear Brother,

Rec.d Oct. 1838

Rev. Matthew B. Hope,
(for the mission)
Singapore.

Matthew Hope
Boston June 15. 1838
Rec.d Oct. 1. 1838
Ans.d Nov. 13. 1838

Rec'd Mar 6. Ans'd March 22, 1839.

Missionary Rooms of the A. B. C. F. M.

Boston, Oct. 4. 1838.

To the Brethren of the Singapore Mission.

Dear Brethren,

I wrote you June 15th by the "Frederick Stanton." I now write you by the "Barbara," by which private letters, periodicals, &c. Mr. Hill will also endeavor to send you a part at least of the articles requested & not already sent. To say nothing of the want of funds, which is being rather tardily remitted, it happens that we have had no opportunity to send supplies, nor indeed anything else, to the Indian Islands for nearly a year; & now they are to be liquidated, in almost inconceivable variety, & to the amount of nine fifteen thousand dollars, to go about the time appointed for the Lord here's coming. In view of all circumstances, the Sandwich Islands in this case might have the precedence, so far as may be necessary.

Mr. Hill says the orders on hand from you mis-
sion, for the printing establishment, somewhat
perplexing. It is of some importance, be not
unnecessarily multiplied, but brought together
as far as possible, & that no article be repeated
or countermanded without stating in what
letter it was first mentioned. Indeed you must
now have a more perfect knowledge of your
wants than could have been had at so early
a period as two since.

The Committee will, ere long review the sub-
ject of your annual allowance as a mission.
Assistance now being placed at your disposal,
it will be for you to decide how to divide
it among your several objects. The sum total
will be governed by the sum total of our receipts.
In making out your orders, it will be well
for you, & in the larger orders, to mention the

limit as to expenditure, begins I think, you did
well not to go — for printing materials,
advertising, books, &c. &c. you will need large
sum amount of funds. You will have to
for extras named
command at first, & must make known
that I can do without undue expenditure your
limits. It will be for the Committee to decide
whether they can afford more than
you ask, & sometimes they will take the liberty
to substitute an article for that asked.
I see no one yet. I will endeavour to
The time is short. and nothing necessary
are met as the need arises, but it is
comfort to think that a few will probably
see the like again. and distribute how
missionary society, has been much aggravated
by the fact that few of the missionaries were
divided their limits in their expenditure, but
absolutely
of them when the Obs. Chief entertained

with tails &c. It was wonderful we escaped
shipwreck. It was because the Lord was over
ruling, & stirred up his people to contribute as
they had never done before. It will take us
some little time to settle accounts under
every article, & require much patience
with us. We have no idea of leaving you
entirely unprotected. I rejoice myself dis-
posed with the pen that you would find
it impossible to sketch the children together
for want of bread. I praise the Lord that
they were not dispersed. Mr. Hill informs me
that he sent a part of the appa-
ratus requested, sometime ago. More will today,
will be sent now, & still more. I trust by the
next vessel.

Mr. Hope has arrived. The probability
of his being called to return to a hot climate
appears to me likely.

The London Society reports the desirableness of making some local division of labor at Singapore between the missionaries of different societies. See extracts from their letter in the Minutes of 29th annual meeting of our Board, under head of "Interference of different missionary societies."

I must close my letter immediately, having to leave the city in three days for New York & Baltimore, & having other missions to write, & nearly a hundred sheets just come in from different missions to read before going.

Desiring affect. regards to your brethren, I am, as ever, most truly yours,

R. Anderson,

Sec. of A. B. C. F. M.

Your annual Report dated Feb. 8th has been received.

Rev. Messrs. Nacy & Dickinson,
(for the Am. Mission)
Singapore.

Mr
Th. Cashmere.

Rec'd May 26. 1839
Ans'd June 5. 1839

Missionary Rooms of the A. B. C. F. M.

Boston, Dec. 12. 1838.

To the Brethren of the Singapore Mission.

Dear Brethren,

Finding by your estimates of expenditures for the year 1839, that the grant of $7.200 made, at one time was not quite sufficient, the Committee yesterday voted that it be seven thousand eight hundred, ($7.800.) Your estimate was $5.704, not including the additional expenditure which would be required by the addition of Messrs. Ball & Wood to your number. The Committee are also in favor of hiring dwelling houses, for the present, rather than building. Should there be funds to those for the purposes by Obj, the case will be altered.

This letter is supplemental to the letter

dated 5th inst.; which goes by the Morea. I have also written to Messrs. Dickinson & Travellin.

As ever, most truly yours,

R. Anderson,

Sec. F. M.

We send you apparatus & books by the Morea. Hope to send you electricity & chemicals ere long. I hear, too, that our friends are talking about a good telescope, which we shall be very glad to forward. We shall now strongly second your efforts in behalf of the seminary; at least I trust the Lord will enable us to do so. Your plan is approved.

Rev. Joseph S. Travelli,

Late of Mission of A. & B. C. F. M.

Signature.

Ship Marcia.

Date Dec 12. 1838

Rec'd. May 25 1839
Ans° June 5. 1839

Missionary Rooms of the A. B. C. F. M.
Boston, Dec. 13. 1838.

To the Brethren of the Singapore Mission.

Dear Brethren,

In one of our letters to the Siam mission we requested that the money (9 Rix & 20 dollars) paid to Mr. Johnson by some Baptist friends in Singapore to pur-chase the time of a Siamese domestic, might be refunded. As it is desirable that this should be done with as little delay as possible, I beg you to attend to it. The Siamese brethren will refund the money to you when

I send letters for our Dutch brethren to your care. By a vessel bound direct to Batavia, I send a duplicate of my letter ad-

dispatched to Borneo, supposing that some of their numbers are still at Batavia. The periodicals which formerly went to Malacca & Robinson at Borneo, now go to Java; & those which went to Java now go to Borneo, supposing the largest company to be at the latter place.

Mr. Hope desires his books, etc. may be sent to him, as he has probably written you.

We have sent a considerable number of each kind of books than you requested. In your next say whether you need more, & how many.

Two other letters dated 5th & 12th inst. accompany this. In haste, but most truly yours,

R. Anderson,
Sec. &c. &c

Rev. Joseph S. Travelli,

Sec. of Mission of A. B. C. F. M.

Singapore.

Ship Morea.

Dec 19. 1848
Dec. May 26.

per the Apthorp.

Rec'd June 14th 1839

Missionary Rooms of the A. B. C. F. M.
Boston, Dec. 5, 1838.

To the Brethren of the Singapore Mission;

Dear Brethren,

I have written you a letter today of three or four sheets, but have concluded to send it by the "Morea," which goes to Singapore via Prince of Wales Island, rather than by the "Apthorp" which goes by way of Manilla. The former sails a week later, but will probably get to Singapore first. For this reason we send the Periodicals, &c. chiefly in her; also a quantity of Apparatus & books, which I am mortified to find did not go in October, as I ordered it would.

We are all pretty well, & remain, with best wishes for your spiritual prosperity, as ever, most affectionately & truly yours,

R. Anderson,
Sec'y of A. B. C. F. M.

Rev. Joseph S. Travelli,

(on the mission)

Singapore.

Ship Antwerp.

Rec'd. June 13. 1839

Missionary Rooms of the A. B. C. F. M.

Boston, Dec. 6. 1838.

Dear Brethren,

I learn from Mr. Peck, one of the Secretaries of the American Baptist Board, that the Rev. Josiah Goddard, one of the two missionaries about to embark in the ship Asthrop, is to remain at Singapore, at least for some time to come. It gives me pleasure to introduce him to you as a brother, with whom, I doubt not, you will find pleasure in co-operating in the work of missions. With our brethren of the Baptist Board at home we have a good understanding, & we are happy to believe that it exists also between the brethren of the two Boards

abroad. May it be perpetual.

Mr. Goddard takes up his abode at Singapore on the ~~principle~~ admitted principle, that it is common ground. The brethren of the different societies will no doubt find room for some sort of division of labor, for fraternal co-operation, for much christian esteem & love.

While commending Mr. Goddard to your fraternal acquaintance & fellowship I would also commend the Rev. Cozader to the Master & the grace, who is on his way to the Chinese mission of the Baptist Board.

Ever, Dear Brethren, as ever,
most truly yours,
R. Anderson,
Sec. of A.B.C.F.M.

Rev.
Missionaries of A.B.C.F.M. at Singapore.

Introduction of Messrs
Goddard & Shaffer
Dec 6. '38
Rec'd June 4th 1839

Revs. Joseph S. Travelli,
(for the Mission)
Singapore.

Rev. Josiah Goddard.

To the Rev. Ira Tracy, & Mr. Samuel Wells
Williams, appointed to labor in connection with
the China Mission.

Dear Brethren,

You have been appointed by the
Prudential Committee of the American Board of
Commissioners for Foreign Missions, to the China Mission,
& ~~as soon as circumstances shall~~ permit, you will
be expected to embark in the Ship Morrison,
~~Capt. [illegible]~~ for Canton. The deep interest
felt by the owners of that ship in your mission, for
the excellence of her accommodations, the vast &
glorious object you have in view, & the gracious
promise of the Lord Jesus to be with those who
go abroad to publish the gospel, together impart
an unusual charm to the prospect of your
voyage. The satisfaction of this have is also
heightened by the thought, that some of your
brethren, with their wives, going as you are, to southeastern Asia,
are doubtless receiving their instructions at this

very time in Boston, ~~and are also expecting~~ to embark on the morrow. May their lives and yours be spared till you are permitted to number many hundreds of fellow-laborers in that great harvest-field.

The Committee would gladly furnish you with written Instructions more full & explicit, for your future guidance, than present circumstances render possible. Much must be referred to the discretion of yourselves & your associates in the mission; & this, indeed, is almost always the case in respect to distant missions; specially in their commencement, when our knowledge of the field to be cultivated must unavoidably be imperfect. When, however, the Instructions you receive from the Committee are explicit and positive, the Committee of course expect them to be followed, unless the most weighty reasons forbid; & then the deviation should always be stated in your correspondence, together with the reasons which led to it. The Instructions

of the Prudential Committee are of the same binding authority upon the missionary for whom they are designed, as are the Rules & Regulations of the Board, printed in the Appendix to the last Annual Report. They are framed with a constant reference to this fact, and are never made peremptory, except when the Committee are confident that such Instructions are authorized and required by the nature of the case. They are designed, also, to be consistent with the letter & spirit of the Laws & Regulations of the Board. When you have attentively examined, and do you make no objection to them, you are regarded as coming under their obligation. They authorize the Prudential Committee to instruct & direct the missionaries of the Board. The Committee make it a rule to acquaint the missionary, in all the more important cases in which it is practicable, with the particular services expected of him, & to ascertain his views & wishes on the subject, before making a formal requisition of those services. To this rule they will ever adhere: but it may

be important to remark, that such a primary step is by no means essential to the obligation of their resolutions and instructions. In a word, the enterprise in which you and we are engaged, is one requiring mutual confidence in an eminent degree. The Committee repose confidence in their missionaries; - giving them large discretionary power, in cases where it appears to be desirable, & permitting their own deliberations & decisions to be swayed in great measure by the facts & opinions contained in the correspondence of their missionaries. The missionaries repose confidence in the Committee; - fully communicating to them their opinions & feelings, & the results of their observations, & cheerfully receiving and following such instructions as the Committee think are demanded by the interests of the great cause. Such is the intimate relation between the Committee & the missionary, & such their mutual dependence; & this dependance & relation being mutually understood, & the

duties arising from them being mutually performed, there will be an orderly & efficient & beautiful system. In this, as in every other system of efforts that can be devised, our obligations to our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ are of course paramount to all others which it is possible to create. His will is Supreme Law.

In obedience to the will of our Lord, as expressed in the last injunction which proceeded from his mouth, you now go forth to the heathen of China. You have no mercantile, no political designs. Your only aim is to be instrumental in publishing the Gospel. Your grand object is the same, though your particular departments of labor will be in great measure distinct. There is one duty however, of great importance in the early stage of the mission, which will be common to you both. Whether you are, whether stationary or itinerant—

& have ever occupied, whether as preacher, translator, editor, or printer, — close & accurate observation will be among your most important duties. The light of full and animated description must reveal to the Church the abominations & necessities of the people in those benighted regions. It is, indeed, made no part of your duty, by these instructions, to travel for this purpose; but, as God shall give you opportunity to observe, & ability to describe, consistently with more appropriate duties, you will make use of those opportunities for the information of the Committee & the benefit of the cause. —

— Before advertising particularly to the field of your mission, & describing your general & special responsibilities, it will be proper to call your attention to one or two general remarks, which you will not lose sight of in your correspondence with the Committee.

1. The aim of the Committee is to occupy,

as speedily as possible, all the ground in that part of the world, which is accessible to the gospel & is not occupied by other missionary societies, or in some other way supplied with the means of salvation through Jesus Christ. We are to lay our plans, and select our stations, & send forth the missionaries and printing apparatus, with a view to such a result, & the Bible & Tract Societies, as the Committee verily believe, will make their grants with a view to the same result. We shall also aim at, indeed, immediate, tangible results, such as can be seen by the churches across the great waters; but these are not to be the ultimate object of our plans, nor will we sacrifice or jeopardize the whole for a part. Every year the church of Christ is prosecuting this work more on principle; as a work, the whole of which is required by the Lord Jesus, & must be performed. The church is laboring more & more on system, & with a view to ultimate & magnificent results. She is actuated and sustained

in her efforts more than by faith; & therefore in her welfare less needs the exciting influence of skirmishes, & victories achieved by small ~~insulated~~ companies of her soldiery. She contends for a victory which shall extend, and raise the chant of triumph along the whole line of her army, and resound ~~the~~ wide world. In view of this auspicious disposition of the churches, the Committee enjoin upon you the cultivation of enlarged views with regard to the object of your mission. Repose confidence in the churches. They are willing now to send forth and support a far greater number of missionaries than can be obtained; & this spirit of benevolent regard for the millions perishing in heathenism is not stationary: it is advancing with accelerated progress. You may occasionally hear that the missionary treasury is exhausted & embarrassed, but such results, in time past, have not been owing to a decrease of benevolence in the churches, nor will they be in time

to come. Their occasional recurrence will be inseparable from human schemes, even with the wisest management that earth can afford; & the want of enterprise will be more sure to bring them, than an excess of it. Like occasional stagnations in commerce, they will come; but by furnishing an opportunity and necessity for bold & general appeal, they are always accumulated for good; nor did they ever yet oblige the Committee to repress the services of a single missionary, or to recall one from the field. Rejoice for encouragement, then, in the churches. They will sustain the Board in all judicious plans for advancing Christ's kingdom among the heathen; & none the less vigorously, if those plans are made with reference to the whole work to be done. Our aim will be to occupy central positions, where the preps shall be erected, & the many laborers reside, & from whence there may be easy access to great surrounding districts.

the most favorable positions must be the first sought & occupied. And not merely in one nation. It is not the command of Christ, nor is it wise, to delay till we gain full possession of one nation, before we enter another. Glad should we be if we could enter all heathen nations simultaneously, by lighting up the fires of truth in all at the same moment, & pour the mingled cries of every benighted tribe and people at once upon the ears of the church. If there is any island we cannot now enter, we must occupy the point nearest to it; if any nation, we must, if possible, surround it.

2. We propose in all ordinary cases, not to interfere with other Missionary Societies. It is not always an interference to labor on the same ground; but rarely is it desirable for missionaries of different societies to occupy the same district, especially if they belong to different religious

denominations. The Board has acted on
this maxim from the beginning. Its missions,
with very few exceptions, have been establish
ed in districts, which at the time, were
occupied & claimed by no other Protestant
societies. The exceptions were ~~in every~~ instances
~~in the~~ ~~part of the~~ Committee, ~~in~~
occasioned by direct invitation on
the part of missionaries of other Societies on
the ground. A letter from the Rev. Mr.
Gutzlaff urged us to send a mission to Siam.
A letter from the Rev. Dr. Morrison & others,
invited us ~~to send a mission~~ to Canton and
the Chinese empire. In recommending new
missions & stations, keep in view this usage
of the Board, & always inform the Committee
what previous missionary efforts have been
made in the field proposed, what portions
are already occupied, & what plans for
occupation or enlargement on the part
of other missionaries or Societies, you are
acquainted with. "The field is the world",

and it is large enough for all.

In your particular mission it is probable you will often come in contact with missionaries of other societies, & it is possible you may hereafter meet with those who belong to different religious denominations from yourselves. With every missionary of the protestant name be on terms of christian friendship. Provided they preach Christ, let them take their own way of uniting his disciples with the visible church.

The point of controversy on the rites and forms of Christianity, had better not be heard beyond the bounds of Christendom.

Your field of Missionary labour is coextensive with that great Community which speaks, & with that still more extentive community which reads, the Chinese language — the language of at least a fourth part of the human race; a medium of thought, doubtless, long before the existence of any of the other languages now spoken in the world; printed & stereotyped ages previous to the invention of printing in Europe, singular in its nature, & difficult of acquisition. Experience has discovered, however, that the difficulties are less than was supposed; and during the twenty years past, many of the mountains have been levelled, & many of the valleys filled, which obstructed our approach to China. And as she rises to view, the christian world is more & more impressed by the prospect. Her mountains, plains, rivers, & canals are seen to be covered with people, while millions of the busy race are scattered over the neighbouring countries & islands. Nor are they barbarians: they have arts & sciences; and among them are more persons who are able to read and write, probably, than in Great Britain & America combined. But the sun of their civilization, which rose four thousand years ago, has never ascended to the Zenith, and it is now stationary, if not retrograde. When the warlike Scythian, two hundred years since, descended from Upper Asia & took possession of the throne, a combination of opposite

qualities was effected in the national character, by which its
elasticity & vigour were in some measure renewed. But the
qualities infused were fierce & warlike, & contained no
sanatory principle; & that great nation, so admirably situated,
& so populous and wealthy, more so indeed than any other,
has probably been growing more polluted & sinful for
two thousand years. We must distinguish between the
excellent maxims contained in some of their Sacred books
& the conduct of the people; nor must we suppose
that their good maxims are understood in China, in
the same exalted and virtuous sense, in which they
would be understood by a people enjoying the light of
the gospel. It is said by an enlightened observer, to be
far otherwise. But the false sentiments & pernicious
principles in their books, outnumber & outweigh all
the others. The most eminent sages of China were
idolaters, & worshipped the heavens & the earth,
mountains & rivers, & the Spirits of the dead. Even
Confucius was an idolater. But when the sect of
Fo, many ages after the time of Confucius, brought
the sacred books of Boodhism from India, & with
more than Christian zeal dispersed them over China,
then error multiplied upon error, superstitions without
number were introduced, the gods became innumerable,
& idolatry was rendered far more degrading & demoral-
-izing than before. Among that ancient people you
will find, with some slight variations, the idolatry
of Canaan, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Chaldea & India.
They worship every thing. They all repose confidence in
charms and spells; & astrology, divination, geomancy,
& necromancy, every where prevail. The sect of
Confucius has no knowledge of a future State;

and the heaven of the Boodhists is a sensual paradise; — containing fortified palaces, groves of trees producing gems, pools of fragrant water, showers of sweet odors, & myriads of birds of exquisite plumage singing on trees of gold, with ravishing notes of a hundred thousand kinds. Such is the paradise of Boodhism. ——

But the time does not permit us to dwell longer upon the religious State of the Chinese. You will make it an object of diligent inquiry; as you will also the character of their morals. These are described by Dr. Milne as accordant with the dark picture drawn by the Apostle Paul in the introduction to his Epistle to the Romans. The doctrine of the transmigration of the Soul from one body to another, & of inevitable fate, freezes & paralizes the social principle. Alas! how generally is the cry of the exposed & dying female infant disregarded in China. Beneath a parade of manners reduced to the most regular form, how much does one, acquainted with the language & Spirit of the people, see to deplore! — the nation groaning under oppression and violence; their courts filled with bribes & injustice; their markets with cozening & deceit; their monasteries with ignorant & indolent Ascetics; their houses with concubines, & even worse abominations! —

Such is the character & condition of the people, to whom the Committee, sustained by the word and providence of God and by numerous Churches in this land, send you with the "glorious gospel of the Blessed God". But while our increasing knowledge reveals more & more, to awake our pity, it affords additional encouragement to hope for better days.

The history of papal missions in China & Japan, is fraught with instruction. Though there were doubtless pious men among their missionaries, yet the causes of their ultimate disaster and ruin, were anything but the Spirit of the Gospel. Divisions, jealousies, angry disputations among themselves, love for the honors of a court, ambition of power;—such in general, were the causes of their overthrow, & of the odium which has since come upon the Christian name. That was a terrible persecution which prostrated the extensive fabric they had reared in China. It is found, however, that no enemy is so inveterate none so annoying & dangerous which Protestant Missions have to encounter as papal establishments in the unenlightened portions of the world. With invincible perseverance, & by every means in their power, they oppose our schools, & the inculcation of the Holy Scriptures. Had their mission in China been attended with permanent success, that success would have been more formidable to us, than the present exclusive policy of the Chinese government. Perhaps it is well for the cause of truth and righteousness that there is no more of the papal power remaining in that country. Just a century has elapsed since those missions received their fatal blow, & now they exist only at Peking, where they are barely tolerated for scientific purposes, & in some of the interior and southern provinces where they are concealed from public observation by distance & mountains.—Since the year 1728, the Russians, by virtue of a treaty, have had an establishment at Peking, of six ecclesiastical & four lay members; but that establishment makes no attempts to propogate the gospel in China.—

In short, China has nothing to hope either from the Greek or Roman churches. And she is naturally jealous of England, whose empire, she knows, extends over the greater part of India, & whose victorious arms, in the Birmese war, nearly reached her western border.

It would seem therefore that Providence throws the chief burden of responsibility for the Spiritual illumination of China, upon the protestant churches of this new world. If her goverment can be made to understand our position on the earth, & that we no more acknowledge the authority of the Pope than they do themselves; & that we utterly disclaim the right of interfering in the civil governments of nations;— is it too much to suppose, that she will at least connive at our efforts, while they are discreetly made?

The late voyages of Mr Gutzlaff along the coast of China, demonstrate a strong disposition among the people to welcome foreigners who come peaceably to their shores. The fact is so obvious, that these voyages will probably constitute an era in the commercial & religious history of that country. Already is mercantile enterprise awake, & determined, if possible to break down the barriers against trade erected by the government; & the prospect now is, that what cannot be effected by embassies & treaties, will be silently accomplished, by public opinion in China, roused by the voice of commerce along her whole extent of sea-coast to control & change the laws.

Here, brethren, we see the elements of human society put in motion & controlled by the gracious Providence of our God, for the advancement of his religion; & it is a glorious fact, that war, revolution, colonization, commerce, science, art, & a thousand other

causes, are bringing every part of the earth within reach of the Church & preparing a high way for her through all nations. — 4 Having taken this brief view of the field of your labours, the Committee will now dear brethren, give you such particular Instructions with regard to your respective duties, as the occasion demands.

You will always feel at liberty, and regard it as your duty, to consult the Committee in all cases, where the interests of the Mission are involved, where you are in doubt what course to pursue, & where the case does not require immediate action. 5 And here it should be remarked, that whenever you request the advice or decision of the Committee on any point, you should be especially careful to state the case fully and clearly, exhibiting with candour all the arguments & circumstances which are supposed to have a bearing upon it, &, so far as you can ascertain them, the opinions which honest, judicious, & well informed men entertain upon the subject. Such information is much more important to the Committee, than Missionaries, in new and distant fields, are commonly aware of; & were it always furnished on subjects sub= =mitted to the Committee it would save, not only the Committee, but the Missionaries themselves, from much perplexity, & the operations of the Mission from much otherwise unnecessary retardation & embarrassment.

In the Rev Dr Morrison, of the London Missionary Society, that venerable father in the China Mission, you will find a counsellor whom you will always respect, & a friend whom you will highly esteem. —

You will both acquire a knowledge of Chinese language as soon as possible. The labours of Morrison, & Milne, & Medhurst, & Gutzlaff, have provided important facilities. Mr Bridgman, your coadjutor in the Mission, will also be able to afford you very great assistance in the study of the language.

The liberal grants of the American Bible Society and the American Tract Society for printing the Holy Scriptures and Religious Tracts in the Chinese language, the disposition of our churches to make still more liberal appropriation for the same object, & the demands of Millions of readers in China & its adjacent colonies; — make it necessary that Mr Bridgman should now devote his attention chiefly to the multiplication & circulation of Christian Books in the Chinese language. This he is instructed to do, as far as will comport with the safety of other interests, which ought not to be sacrificed. In this view the arrival of you both in Canton will be most seasonable.—

Mr. Tracy — you, dear brother, have been accustomed to write for the press, & having a taste for that kind of employment & some experience, you will be able at once to afford Mr. Bridgman important relief in that portion of editorial duties, which devolves upon him in reference to the Chinese Repository. This monthly journal, — the chief object of which is to acquaint the christian world with the Geography, government, literature, & social and moral condition of China & other nations of Southeastern Asia —

is printed at the press of the American Mission at Canton & has been ably edited by Mr. Bridgman, in connection with Dr. Morrison, and one or two other gentleman residing in China. The Committee believe that this work ought to be sustained, till the Christian Church is better informed concerning the populous nations in that quarter of the world, & far more interested in their Spiritual illumination.

While, therefore, you are acquiring the language of China, you will not refuse to take such part in these labors in your own tongue, as the associate editors of the Repository shall deem advisable. So far as the Committee are able now to judge, the Studies and Labours which have been mentioned will form your principal occupation during the first year or two of your residence in China; though you will on no account lose sight of your ministerial office & duties, nor forbear to preach the gospel whenever you have opportunity. Meanwhile, Providence may be expected to shed light upon the subsequent path of your duty as a Missionary. But let the establishment of Christ's kingdom in China, be henceforward the grand object of all your labours. Your Lord & Master, while on his mission had one thing to do, & how was he straitened till it was accomplished! He lived & died for the whole world. you will live & spend your life for a part; & that part will be China — the publication of the gospel in the immense empire of China — the rescue of her myriads, through the knowledge of the truth and the power of the Holy Ghost, from the thraldom of Sin. —

Mr Williams sustains the relation of printer to the China mission, & this relation acquires uncommon interest, when we reflect on the immense number of readers which may probably be found within the compass of the Chinese language. The opportunities which Divine Providence has been pleased to afford you, Dear Brother, for mental cultivation especially in the natural sciences, should lead you to a more ardent & entire consecration of yourself to the service of Christ in this work. Henceforth put all your powers of body & mind into requisition for making the press felt through the grace of God wherever the Chinese language is spoken. At first, indeed, your efforts will be chiefly directed to printing in your own language, & such printing will always demand some degree of your attention. But printing in the English language is not the great object for which you are sent forth. There must be printing on a large scale in the Chinese language. From the attention which the Committee has given to the subject, it does not seem probable that metalic moveable types will ever come into extensive use in China. The Chinese characters represent ideas, & the many thousands which would be requisite, would be exceedingly expensive. & then where shall we find space to arrange them in cases or printers skilled enough in the language to use them? The Chinese for nearly a thousand years, have had a method of printing, than which nothing can be more simple; the letters being ~~made~~ cut, as you already know, on wooden

blocks, after the manner of our engravers on wood. No press is required in China. The printer may be itinerant, as well as the preacher. Both may travel and labor together in their respective departments; for the block being ready, the ink is applied to the surface with a soft brush; then the paper is applied, & gently pressed with another brush upon the characters standing out in relief; & the work is done. The blocks for Dr Morrison's octavo Chinese New Testament of 537 pages, cost but 500 dollars, or less than one dollar a page; & from 30 to 50,000 impressions may be taken from the blocks. The lithographic art may also be applied to Chinese printing, especially where immediate impressions are required, & you will find a press of this kind already on the ground.

Precisely in what manner the mechanical labours in this great process will be performed, we cannot indeed yet know with certainty. But we do know that those labours will afford the most ample scope for ingenuity & science to operate; & that they will not be performed as speedily nor as well, as they ought to be, nor indeed at all, without unceasing industry, vigilance, & faithfulness on the part of some o

Here, then, is your particular department of labour & responsibility. A vast amount of printing is to be done, — some of it in the English language, but most of it in the Chinese, — & you, & those who shall be associated

with you hereafter in the same department, are to see that there is as little delay & expense, & as great perfection, in the performance of it, as possible.

Let this be your great duty, & let all your other studies & labours be subservient to this. It is, indeed, for the Mission to decide — in the manner prescribed by the Rules & Regulations of the Board — as to what works shall be printed; & the Mission may prescribe rules for the conduct of the printing department under the authority of the Committee: but your proper department of responsibility & duty will be understood by your brethren, & by the Committee, to be the one just described.

The work will be enlightened by the blessing of God on the proper division & application of human labour; and the progress of the cause of Christ is apparent in the continual multiplication of departments of Christian zeal and effort. But while your attention is mainly directed to your department as a printer, it need not and should not be confined to that department. By a holy example, & by conference with your brethren, by religious conversation with natives of the country, by circulating books among them, by collecting information for the Committee, by a discreet employ-

ment of your knowledge of the natural sciences, by the prosecution of your studies in the sciences, & in many other ways, you may add much to your usefulness.

You perceive Brethren, that you have a great field before you, & the high probability that every part will be accessable, long before we are ready to occupy the whole of it. And when you look upon the great oceans south & east of China, how many thousands of beautiful & populous islands do you see! In regard to the greater part of these, only one thing is necessary to render them immediately accessable to the Gospel; & that is the means of conveying the Missions to them, & of sending those Missions annual supplies of necessary articles. And the Committee believe that the time is near when the Merchants of this or of some other city will maintain a Ship in that part of the world for the express purpose of facilitating the progress of the gospel along the shores of China, & in the extensive Archipelagoes in the Indian & Pacific ocean.

But it is time to bring these Instructions to a close. - Dear Brethren, be circumspect in all your ways, not only while you remain with us, but during your voyage, & while you live. The Missionary ought ever to remember, & to be admonished & humbled by the fact, that he is a public character. He is surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Far off among the heathen, he is in danger of losing the impression of this fact; but any great delinquency in his conduct as a Missionary, will almost certainly become known to multitudes, both of the friends & enemies of Christ. ——

How ought he therefore to run with patience the race set before him! How ought he to live & labour & pray! Especially ought he to be constrained to activity & faithfulness by a consideration of the love of Christ, & by a belief in his presence to observe, sustain, assist & bless his servants in heathen lands.

Love each other with a pure heart fervently, and strengthen each other's hands. Be faithful unto death; then will you rejoice that you bade adieu to parents, & relatives, & native land, on the great errand of love, on which the Committee affectionately send you.

Boston, Missionary Rooms,
June 6, 1833.

B. B. Wisner.
R. Anderson
David Greene.
} Secretaries of the A.B.C.F.M.

For the Rev. Ira Tracy

&

Mr. Saml. Wells Williams.

Case of Mr. Tracy.

Extracts from Instructions to
Rev. Matthew B. Hope, & Rev. Joseph L. Tracelli, missionaries of
the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Beloved Brethren;

The instructions of the Prudential committee which are to be given in this public manner, will relate to the station you are to occupy - the field of missionary effort to which that station belongs - and yr own special duties as missionaries - together with such general hints and cautions as the occasion demands.

The station you are to occupy is at Singapore, the rising mart of commerce for eastern Asia and the neighboring Archipelago, situated on a small island at the extreme part of the Malayan peninsula, and blessed with a fine climate. This station sustains, for the present, a common relation to all the missions of the Board in that part of the world. It is our central station. Here is to be our principal seminary for rearing up native helpers in the more important languages; and here our principal establishment for printing books in those languages, with ample materials for type-manufacturing and stereotyping. The importance of this station, however, will appear more fully in the sequel.

The field to which yr station is related, is of great extent. From Singapore draw a line northward to the mountains which seperate Russia from China, 3.500 miles; thence eastward to the wintry island of Saughalien, 2.000 miles; thence down the eastern coast of Asia to Singapore, 5.000 miles. Within these limits are Siam, Cochin China, China proper, Mongolia, Mantchooria and Corea, forming a part of the

field. Then, with Singapore for yo central point, and a radius of somewhat more than 2.000 miles, sweep round from the northeast, a fourth of a great circle, to the southeast, embracing the largest and most important group of islands in the world; — and you have before you the other part of the field; — the whole extending through sixty degrees of latitude and forty of longitude.

Within these limits dwell more than a third part of the human race, variously elevated on the scale of social life, from the most brutal savagery up to semi-barbarism

Contemplating these millions of human beings in connection with their religious, the first in the order of importance is the religion of Fo, or Budhism, introduced from India into China a few years after the crucifixion of our Lord. Chinese tradition attributes to Confucius the saying, that a Holy One should come from the West, who should deliver to mankind a perfect rule of virtue. Influenced, as is conjectured, by a rumor of the events attending the advent of our Savior in Judea, in connection with this remarkable saying, an emperor of China in the year 65, sent an embassy to India to bring from thence some disciples of the newborn sage. A single Budhist missionary thus introduced, and bringing with him the sacred books of his religion, began the work; and now that is the prevailing religion among nations numbering 400.000.000 of human beings: that is to say, among the Japanese, the Chinese, the wandering herdsmen & shepherds of Mongolia & Mantchooria, and the inhabitants of the Loo-choo and Japanese islands. In many of its ~~rights~~ rites and forms it bears a striking resemblance to the church of Rome; but enjoins a state of stupefaction and apathy as the nearest approach to celestial bliss.

Another religion prevalent among the same people, though less extensively, and existing in China before the introduction of Budhism,

is the mystical system of Lao-tze. It is pantheism. Its author represents all nature to be full of genii and demons influencing the destinies of men. This absurd system, although repeatedly advocated by emperors, you will be happy to find has not secured a general belief.

The object of Confucius, in his religious system, if such it may be called, was to introduce reform into social life. It is a heartless system of manners, taking no cognizance of a future state of existence, or of a superior spiritual being. It is practical atheism; and yet the government of China is based upon the institutions of Confucius.

On the whole, you will do well to regard the religion of the Chinese as compounded of the three which have been named, since neither of them abrogates the others, and it is their combined influence which sways the national mind, and forms the national character.

The inhabitants of Corea concur with the Chinese in the honor rendered to Confucius and his institutions, but reject the system of Fo and its ignorant & vicious priesthood.

Some of the religions of China are established as the exclusive religion of the state, paid and encouraged by the government. The emperor not unfrequently belongs to one sect, many of his mandarins to another, and the majority of the common people to a third. The present dynasty inclines to the great Dalai-Lama of Thibet, in whose person Buddha is supposed to reside.

Buddhism not only owes its propagation among the Chinese to missions instituted for the purpose, but it once had successful missions on the islands of the Indian Archipelago. There are magnificent monuments of it still existing in the island of Java.

Afterwards the Hindoo or Brahminical religion of India sent missionaries to the Archipelago, and effected an essential modi-

fication in the Buddhism of the islands. Brahminism is now the religion of an island situated at the eastern extremity of Java and containing half a million of people, but it is found no where else in the archipelago.

Next after Brahminism came Mohammedanism; for Mohammed too, has had zealous and successful missionaries in those beautiful islands. Mohammedan missionaries came from Arabia to the Malayan peninsula five centuries ago; and when the Malays were converted to the new faith, as they have been more effectually than any others of the islanders, they became the chief instruments of propagating it throughout the Archipelago. Mohammedanism effected its final triumph over Brahminism in Java just nine years before the Europeans doubled the Cape of Good Hope. It is now the religion of the Malayan peninsula, of Java, and of a part of the islands of Sumatra & Celebes; and exists more or less in numerous small islands

Paganism, in its crudest state, sometimes little more than a mere superstition, without tangible opinions and with but few rites, exists in the interior mountains of Malacca, in large districts of Sumatra, over the greater part of Borneo, through the whole of New Guinea and in hundreds of other islands great and small.

The papal missionaries entered China 250 years ago, and in 15 years commenced their residence in Peking. Ninety years after this, the new sect had made such progress and gained so much favor that the emperor Kang-he placed it upon the same footing with the acknowledged religions of the empire. You should study the history of the papal missions in China, for they are fraught with instruction. The causes of their ultimate failure were anything but the spirit of the gospel. Divisions, jealousies, angry disputations among themselves, love for the honors of a court, and ambition of power were the occasion

of their overthrow

It is found, however, that no enemy which protestant missions have to encounter, is so determined in its opposition to the progress of the truth, as papal establishments in the unevangelized portions of the world. By every means in their power, and with invincible perseverance, they oppose our preaching, our schools, and the circulation of the Holy Scriptures. Had their missions in China been attended with permanent success, the results would have been more formidable to us, than the present exclusive policy of the Chinese government. Doubtless it is well for the cause of truth and piety that there is no more of papal influence left in that country. Perhaps, too, the astonishing prevalence of Mohammedanism among the people of the Indian islands, just before the arrival of papal missionaries by the way of the Cape of Good Hope, was designed by the God of heaven to serve as a barrier against their success; else, had Sumatra, and Java, and Borneo, and Celebes, & the Moluccas, perhaps, been called against us with triple adamant like the Philippine islands. Just a century has elapsed since the papal missions received their death blow in China, and now they exist only in some interior provinces where they are concealed from public observation by distance and mountains.

The protestant religion has obtained a footing in the more important of the Moluccas, or spice islands, eastward of Celebes; and the Netherlands missionary society has missions in these, and in Timor and several of its neighboring isles.

This rapid view of the religious influences to which the minds of men have been subjected in the interesting field of yr future labors, must suffice for the present occasion. The subject, however, is worthy of much reading and inquiry on yr part; for you cannot intelligent-

deps administered to diseases, without first ascertaining their specific natures.

You will also contemplate the field of yr missionary labors in relation to the principal languages prevailing among its inhabitants. First in order is the Chinese language - a medium of thought long before the existence of any of the other languages now spoken in the world; printed and stereotyped ages previous to the invention of printing in Europe; singular in its nature; difficult of acquisition by foreigners, but actually read by a greater number of persons than speak any other language in the world. The dialects in the spoken language are various, but in reading the same symbolical characters are understood alike by all. The language vernacular to more than 350. 000. 000 within the empire, and to as many as 15, or 20. 000. 000, without.

Omitting the other languages upon the continent, turn now to the islands. Among the savage tribes you will find that the languages are many, while in the more improved communities they are few. Among the rude and scattered population of the island of Timor, there are not less than 40 languages. On the islands of Ende & Flores, there are numerous languages. Among the cannibal inhabitants of Borneo, it is supposed that hundreds of languages may be found. But as we advance westward, civilization improves and fewer languages are spoken. In the considerable island of Sumbawa, there are but five languages. In the civilized portion of Celebes, not more than four. In Java, with 6. 000. 000 of people, only two languages. In the great island of Sumatra, with 4. 000. 000 not more than six languages. Javanese is the most improved and copious language in all the archipelago. Its neatly written character is employed by two or three millions, besides those who speak the Javanese language.

The Malay language, written with the Arabic character, is spoken on the Malayan peninsula, and wherever the Malays are scattered. The languages chiefly prevalent in Celebes, are Bugis & Macassar; the former the most cultivated and copious, as the nation which speaks it is the most numerous and powerful.

Five distinct alphabets exist among the nations of the Indian islands - dissimilar from each other, and wholly unlike any that are known elsewhere. But the fact will encourage yr labors, in view of this variety of tongues, that the great body of the people may be approached through the medium of a very few languages, and that all the tongues spoken in the Archipelago are remarkable for simplicity of structure. Unlike the great original languages of Europe and Asia, not one is complex in form. Though differing widely from the languages of every other portion of the globe, they have a remarkable resemblance to each other, in structure, idiom and genius. But they are all of course deficient in expression on the higher and more abstract subjects, and especially on moral subjects; for the world of thought and reflection, and especially of holiness, is unknown to the people who speak them.

In contemplating the people under the different governments, you naturally turn first to the Chinese, and behold the singular spectacle of one third of the human race seperated from the rest of mankind, and obeying one head and one system of laws. Their government is a paternal despotism, and the genius of the government determines that of the family. The father is a despot among his children, and the worship of ancestors is one of the fundamental principles of the civil law. The whole paternal power and influence of the empire seems to be, as it were, ~~collected~~ collected and concentrated in the person of the emperor, the reputed father of his people, whom the atheistical systems of the nation

exalts into the place of God. He alone has the right of supplicating High Heaven - a name, however, which, to the Chinese mind conveys no idea of an infinite spiritual being.

This government extends its dominion over the great central plateau of Asia, including the nomadic races, which, in former ages, seated themselves upon the thrones of the Greek empire, of India, and China.

The island of Singapore belongs to the English nation. The Phillippine islands are subject to the Spanish nation. The Dutch govern Java and the Molucca Islands; and occupy commercial posts on Sumatra, Timor, Celebes, Borneo, and perhaps other islands.

Having given such a view as our brief time permitted of this immense field for Christian enterprise, the Committee will now specify the more important of

Your special duties. The Rev. Mr Tracy is already at Singapore, as one of the resident missionaries at that place. Perhaps Mr Dickenson, now also at Singapore, may make that his chief place of residence. Mr North is there too, as a printer, with a knowledge of type-cutting and founding. One or two more printers and a bookbinder are to be sent to the station, and two or three more competent ordained missionaries, besides yourselves. The Committee have authorized the commencement of a seminary on a large scale, in which instruction shall be imparted to promising natives, in the Chinese, Siamese, Malay and Bugis languages, and perhaps also in Javanese and other tongues. The labor must be divided among the resident missionaries. Mr Tracy, Mr Dickenson, and Mr Hope will devote themselves specially to the Chinese; Mr Travelli, and others yet to be sent to the station, will direct their efforts to the languages of the Archipelago. The seminary will be directed

the mission as an organized body. Such is our usage. The several missions direct the proceedings of their respective members, subject, of course, to the superior direction of the Prudential Committee and the Board. As soon as possible learned natives will be collected from the more important portions of the field, to become your teachers in the languages of their respective communities, and to assist in the instruction of the seminary.

The same missionaries and learned natives, who conduct the instructions of the seminary, will also give employment and efficiency to the press. Our principal establishment for printing will be at Singapore, though not our only one. We have another already in Siam, and another at Canton. Indeed each considerable mission must be furnished with a press, for that powerful engine was evidently given for the help of the church in its immense work of filling the earth with the knowledge of the Lord, and should be brought as much as possible into action. But in Singapore must be our most extended apparatus; our greatest mechanical power; our stereotype plates; our type and stereotype foundries; our large editions of the Holy Scriptures; our great book depository; our central light in the constellation we are endeavoring to light up in that region of darkness.

You will owe peculiar and sacred duties to your brethren in different parts of the field, growing out of yr central situation. To a great extent you will become the channel of communication to many of them with their native land. You will correspond with them, and do a hundred other things to increase their comfort and usefulness.

The foregoing extracts are correctly made.

R. Anderson,
Secretary of A. B. C. F. M.

Missionary Room, Boston, June 28, 1836.

Rev. Messrs. Nopet & Varelli.

Extracts from Instructions.

Missionary Rooms Boston June 29. 1836

Rev Stephen Tracy

My dear Brother

You have received my general designation of the Chinese & it is the understanding of the prudential committee that you will not reside permanently at Singapore; perhaps not for a short time. But where you had better make your permanent residence it is not easy now & at this distance to determine. The most promising openings among the Chinese at present seem to be in Siam either at Bankok or Chantaboon. The committee will not object to your going to Siam should that be deemed expedient by the brethren (including yourself & the company that sail with you) who meet to deliberate on the case of Messrs Stevens & Robbins, soon after your arrival at Singapore. Chantaboon is represented by Dr Bradley ~~as~~ to be a good site for a station & which Missionaries might invest to remit their health. The population is almost exclusively Chinese.

But if a majority of the brethren are decidedly of the opinion that you had better ~~not~~

remain at Liverpool till you have acquired some knowledge of the Chinese language or go to some other place you had better follow this advice till you or they can write to the committee on the subject & you receive further advices from the rooms

Be sure & make the acquisition of the language your primary object for the first year. Let nothing prevent you from doing this, I fear that your brother & Dr Bradley & Dr. Parker have been too much under the influence of circumstances adverse to this attention to the language It will be so perhaps in spite of all efforts to the contrary. It certainly will be unless a firm & unyielding resolution is formed against them, & an undisturbed conviction that duty requires the acquisition of the language the first point claiming attention.

Having so many letters to write I must close this brief letter with an expression of my fervent desire & prayer for the usefulness & happiness of yourself & dear Mrs C. & am affectionately yours

Most truly yours

Lyd & R. Henderson

Rev. A. B. C. F. M.

CHARLESTON OBSERVER

B. GILDERSLEEVE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.] CHARLESTON, S. C. SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1837

[FOR THE CHARLESTON OBSERVER.]

Instructions of the Prudential Committee of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, to the Rev. DYER BALL, *destined to the Mission at Singapore.*

BELOVED BROTHER,—There is power in truth, power over matter, power over mind. In mind it is the conservative principle, and is essential to its intelligent existence. Deprived of truth, the mind at once becomes deranged or idiotic. Truth is indeed the only natural aliment of mind. And whether revealed in the volumes of nature or inspiration, whether manifested in the kingdoms of providence or grace, all truth is equally from God. Nor is any truth so insignificant but it has its appointed place and influence in the kingdom of Jehovah, and, so far as it exerts any influence, is a principle of vitality, order, and obedience; while its nature and tendencies are the same in every place and period, unchanged and unchangeable as God himself.

The power of truth, also, is *cumulative*; and its power and influence have been accumulating in all the different periods of the world. Supernatural revelation has indeed long since ceased, and its truths do not now multiply with time; but then the *relations* of those truths to each other, to God, to man, and to the universe of mind and matter, are infinite; and they are constantly breaking forth upon us like beams of light from the heavens. And what are called the natural sciences, are in connection with their kindred arts, expanding into bright worlds of truth. Nor were the power and influence of truth ever so great, ever so rapidly increasing as now. How much greater than when Newton commenced his studies, or when Luther entered upon his career! How much more rapidly increasing than in that brightest of the middle ages, the age of Charlemagne!

And the present is pre-eminently the time for diffusing the knowledge, and of course the power and influence of truth throughout the world. In past ages, ignorance of the geography of the world; the infantile state of navigation and commerce; the relative situation of Christian and pagan nations, exceedingly unfavorable to an extensive and systematic prosecution of Christian Missions; the unsettled condition of society in Christendom, owing to the inroads of Goths, Huns, Vandals, Saracens, and afterwards to the feudal system of the crusades; and the ignorance, superstition, and often extreme weakness of the true Church; these and other causes rendered it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the Church in former ages to diffuse a knowledge of the truth throughout the inhabited world. Beyond a doubt, however, nearly all the habitable world is open to the Church of the present age. The entire earth has, with some unimportant exceptions, been explored; and the seas and oceans have been more thoroughly explored than the land.—The known world is now the whole world. The commerce of Protestant nations is with the whole world. Intercourse with the most distant nations is not only possible, but cheap and easy. The press too, has effected a wonderful change in the condition and relations of the human mind. Society, contemplated on the large scale of nations, is incomparably more settled and pacific than it ever was in former times. Nor is there Goth or Vandal, Turk or Saracen, with power to throw back the civilized world; nor False Prophet, nor Man of Sin, again to arise and deceive it. Commerce, science, and religion, all have an irresistible tendency to diffusion. Indeed *diffusion* is the grand tendency and characteristic of the age. And the time must be very near, when mind, all over the world, will feel the influence of the commerce and civilization of Christian nations, and will yield to the conviction of the transcendant power of those nations.

In the apostolic age, the Church attempted the propagation of the Gospel through the known world, which was but a small part of it; now the Church is attempting its propagation through the *whole* world; and it is now almost as easy to operate upon the whole, as it then was to operate on the part embraced in the Roman empire. And God has given to us a much greater array of means, than the Apostles had, and also the promise of the same Almighty Spirit to help our infirmities, and give efficacy to our means. These means are the *preaching of the Gospel*, which we have and employ in common with the Apostles, the *printing press* which was then unknown, *elementary schools*, which then could not be enjoyed, by the mass of the people, owing to the want of printed books, and the scarcity and cost of manuscripts—and *higher seminaries of Christian learning*, which the Apostles did not need, finding men of education among their converts, to take charge of the Churches they planted; but which afterwards arose at Alexandria, at Edessa, at Tarsus, at Athens, and at other places in the highly civilized portions of the world, embraced in the recorded missions of the Apostles.

You, dear Brother, are one of five Missionaries who have been designated by the Prudential Committee to *Singapore*, to rear up a higher institution of Christian learning at that place and mart of commerce, for the common benefit of the missions of the Board in Southeastern Asia, and the Indian Archipelago. Three of the number, Messrs. Tracy, Hope, and Travelli, are already on the ground; and yourself, together with Mr. Wood, now at Princeton, who is expected to embark at the same time with you, are the other two. The seminary itself is not yet actually founded; but a large printing establishment, which is to be connected with it, under the direction of the Mission at Singapore, and which contains founderies for type and for stereotype plates, is now operating in the Chinese, Siamese, Malay, and Bugis languages. Such being the special object of your Mission, and the other prominent topics relating to it, having been discussed in the instructions given to your predecessors, the Committee will confine their present instructions to *the principles to be regarded in the erection and management of the higher Seminaries connected with the Missions of the Board*. For other matters of interest to your mission, you are referred to the documents just mentioned, and to your future correspondence with the Committee.

Only a small number of Seminaries like the one to be instituted at Singapore, yet exist in Missions among heathen nations. The London Missionary Society has one at Malacca. The English Wesleyan Methodists have none. The English Baptists have one at Serampore. The English Church Missionary Society has one among the Syrian Christians of India, for educating native schoolmasters and catechists in West Africa, another in South India, and another in Ceylon. The English Society for propagating the Gospel, has one in Calcutta, and the Presbyterian Church of Scotland has also one in the same city.

The American Board makes higher Seminaries of learning a component and indispensable part of its missions. Such Seminaries now exist in connection with its Missions in Ceylon, at the Sandwich Islands, at Constantinople, and in Syria. They are also projected in the Missions in West Africa, among the Greeks of Asia Minor, the Nestorians of Persia, and the Mahrattas of India. Others will rise in process of time, should the smiles of heaven be continued to its Missions, in the two South African Missions, in Rajpootana, in South India, in Siam, in the more eastern part of the Indian Archipelago, and perhaps among the Indians of our own territory.

The fact, which induce the Board thus to connect with its several Missions the means of thoroughly educating a select number of the native inhabitants, is the utter hopelessness of furnishing the heathen world an adequate supply of preachers from Christian lands. Nor, after the observations and experience of more than twenty years, does it seem desirable to us that Christendom should furnish a full supply. Why should all the laborers be sent a great distance from foreign lands, when three-fourths of them can be raised on the spot—*native laborers*—to whom the climate will be natural, the language vernacular, the manners, habits and customs of the people familiar; and who, to use the expressive language of a convert from heathenism, "having been heathen, know how heathen think?" Why should strangers be sent to do the whole work, when experience has shown that one-fourth of the number, with the other three-fourths educated and pious native helpers, will be far less expensive, and as much more efficient? Why not organize, as soon as possible, the only agency on an extensive scale, by which the blessings of the gospel can be universally diffused, and an adequate provision made for their being handed down, if such be the will of God, to succeeding generations?

Such dear Brother, are some of the general views which have led the Prudential Committee to connect higher Seminaries of learning with their other efforts to propagate the Gospel among the heathen.

The Commitee will now state, for your information, and that of your brethren at Singapore, and in the other missions of the Board, what are the principles to be regarded in the erection and management of this class, and not merely to the one at Singapore.

1. *The Directors of Seminaries connected with the Missions of the Board must be members of the Mission.* The Seminaries are Missionary institutions. They form a component part of the system of means employed by the several Missions with which they are connected. Their leading and only design is to promote the objects of those Missions. They are to act in perfect harmony with all the other instrumentalities employed; and there is the same reason why they should be under the exclusive control of the missions with which they are connected, that there is for having our presses and elementary schools under the direction of these Seminaries should be restricted to their respective Missions, subject of course to the superior direction of the Prudential Committee. If any exception be admitted, it is in favor of the members of the Board, corporate, corresponding, or honorary, residing in the country where the Seminary is situated.—The direction should not be shared with Missionaries of other societies. Simplicity in plan and union in action, is one of our fundamental maxims. With brethren of kindred societies, we aim to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace;" but we best do this by having our operations distinct from theirs. And distinct and separate plans and operations are perfectly consistent with mutual freedom in consultation, mutual frankness, mutual understanding and approbation of each others views and plans, an unembarrassed reciprocity of thought and feeling, and whatever else is necessary to ensure Christian cordiality and co-operation between Missions laboring in the same field.

2. *The Seminaries should not ordinarily be commenced on a large and expensive scale.* They cannot be expected, like some Colleges in our own land, to rise at once into maturity. According to our present experience, first in the order of time will be, the elementary free schools; then the preparatory boarding school, for a select number of the more forward and promising pupils in the free-schools; then the Seminary for a still more select portion of the scholars in the preparatory school. Arrangements should not be made for a greater number of scholars in more advanced stages of education, than can be obtained; nor should buildings be erected, nor apparatus requested, faster than they are needed. Nor should any of the buildings be expensive. A Missionary society should not erect costly buildings among the heathen for education or for any other purposes. Let neat simplicity characterize the buildings for our seminaries every where, that the external appearance and cost of the institutions may be in keeping with their origin and design.

3. *Permanent funds for the Seminaries are not to be solicited in this country.*—Why should they be? Are there not the same reasons for soliciting permanent funds to support the Mission presses, and the Missions themselves? It is no more difficult annually to raise funds for the one of these objects, than for the other. Because permanent funds are sought for Colleges and Theological Seminaries at home, it does not follow that they should be for Missionary seminaries.—The cases are not analogous. Subscriptions cannot be obtained annually, nor ought they to be solicited annually, for our Colleges at home; but annual subscriptions are the most proper method of providing for all the annual expenses of missions to the heathen. Aside from the objections in the community which are felt against permanent funds, a separate effort to raise them for the Missionary seminaries would have a destructive and injurious influence on the ordinary collections for the support of missions. Moreover, the influence of such funds, if accumulated to a great extent, would be to awaken jealousies in the community prejudicial to the Society which had charge of them; and perhaps also to weaken the central directing power in those Societies which is so vital to the harmony and prosperity of every mission, and of the whole system.

4. *The Seminaries are not designed for adults, but for youth; and generally for youth who have had a previous training by the mission.*—There are, and there will be, exceptions to this rule. But *youth* are the most promising pupils in all countries, and especially in heathen countries. And as the minds of heathen children are occupied and filled so early with evil examples at their homes, we reach our object most directly and economically by placing in boarding schools, at an early age, a number sufficient to ensure us pupils for our seminaries. This has been the course pursued in the Ceylon Mission, and with auspicious results. The expense of training an efficient native agency in this manner will indeed be considerable; but we gain nothing—nay, we lose time, and money, and labor, by endeavoring to perform our work without the assistance of a well educated agency.

5. *The Seminaries should not be merely Colleges, nor merely Schools of Theology, but a combination of the two institutions.*—Both theology and human science should be taught in intimate connection, through the entire course of education. The Committee do not mean the theology of natural religion merely, nor chiefly, but also of revealed religion—THE GOSPEL OF JESUS; and the BIBLE should be our text-book. The opinion that mind must be educated in the principles of human science before it is fitted for instructions in theology, is derived from the schools of philosophy, and not from the word of God. The plain simple theology of the Scriptures, *can* be taught to youth, and to heathen youth, in every stage of their education. And it is of vital importance that it should be. We go to heathen nations on purpose to make known the Gospel. For this the command of Christ was given; for this we have his presence and aid. And if the whole course of education *can* be made thus eminently Christian, then surely it *ought* to be so. For, all the knowledge of the Gospel which a part of our pupils will obtain, will be while connected with the preparatory schools and seminary. When they leave these, they will go forth into the world. Only a portion of those whom we educate, will become our immediate associates and helpers in after life. Our Missionary seminaries, then, should be pre-eminently, from beginning to end, and in all their influence, *Christian institutions*; in which, as far as possible, truth shall occupy the time of the student, according to his relative adaptedness to free his mind from the shackles of heathenism, and make him realize his immortality and his moral accountability; so that whenever he goes out from us, we shall have done all in our power to fit him for usefulness on earth, and prepare him for heaven.

6. Finally—*The design of the Seminaries is to educate natives to be helpers in the mission, and, as soon as possible, to take the place of the mission.* They are not intended to educate natives for the law, nor for medicine, nor for civil office, nor for trade except so far as this will directly promote the legitimate object of the mission. The course of education is to be planned with a view to raising up, with the blessing of God, an efficient body of native helpers in the several departments of missionary labor; to be teachers of schools, catechists, tutors, and professors in the seminaries, and, above all, preachers of the Gospel, pastors of the native churches, and Missionaries to neighboring heathen districts and countries. For this purpose the Seminaries will be furnished with competent teachers, and with all necessary books and apparatus; and a press will be generally placed in their immediate neighborhood.

The course of study will, ordinarily, embrace, it is presumed, not less than six years, and should secure the three following results:

1. *Furnishing the minds of the pupils with truth.*—This you will find a laborious task; but it must be done. Depravity, error, prejudice, apathy, stupidity, must all be overcome, with assistance from on high, and the heathen minds of the pupils become the repositories of Christian truth. In this work, the English language will be our grand storehouse, and English books our principal classics. This language, which God, in his infinite mercy, has made our own, is richer in Christian knowledge than all other languages combined. We have, indeed, no Utopian scheme of making it the language of the world; nor are we prepared even to encourage the attempt, which has been proposed on respectable authority, to substitute the letters of our own alphabet for the alphabets of India, or for the pictorial signs of China.—But in no way can we so effectually open the world of truth to the contemplation of our select pupils, and bring them under its influence, as by teaching them to read the English language. You thus place them almost a century in advance of the great body of their countrymen. They are brought at once, in respect to facilities for gaining knowledge from books, upon the high ground occupied by the youth of Christian lands. But in another respect they will labor under such disadvantages, as are comparatively unknown to the youth of Christian countries. In acquiring and using their mother tongue, they will inevitably imbibe, to a great extent, the opinions, prejudices, and intellectual and moral habits of their nation. These, in heathen nations, are wonderfully opposed to truth and duty. And such an influence do they exert upon the mind, that an exorcism must be performed on every one of its faculties before it will be prepared rightly to apprehend and reason upon the truth. So it was in the first ages of the Church of Christ. The very existence of Christianity was in peril almost immediately after the death of the Apostles, from this very cause. The Apostle Paul even declares that he saw the "mystery of iniquity" already working. It is only necessary to examine the writings of such of the Christian fathers as were converts from the sects of pagan philosophy, to see a most strange and melancholy picture of corruptions following closely upon the first publication of Christianity;—"when the educated among the Christians were mixing up the pure precepts of the Gospel with the false morals and dreamy reveries of Pythagoras and Plato; while the giddy multitude rushed by thousands in mad pursuit of the distorted spectres raised by Marcion and Valentinus, which were hurrying them back with frightful velocity into the deepest and darkest abyss of heathenism." Now against similar causes of misconception and perversion, you will have to guard incessantly, or your pupils will hold the truth in unrighteous alliance with error, and the Gospel which you give them will soon become corrupted in their hands.

An essential and obvious means of preventing this result will be,

2. *To teach the pupils to think*, so as clearly to discriminate between truth and error. You will find, dear brother, a dreadful stagnation of mind among the heathen.—The natural tendency of sin is to blind the reason weaken its powers, and disincline it to reflection. And after the light of natural religion has thus been put out, and paganism undisturbed sways the sceptre over mind, an awful paralysis falls upon the intellect of the great mass of the people, especially with regard to moral subjects; and scarcely is it possible to rouse it to any thing like thought. Indeed when surrounded by heathen minds, you will often think of Ezekiel's vision, and your only encouragement to prophesy will be the expected aid of the Almighty Spirit. However, the *appropriate means* of rousing the dormant powers must be employed. Pictorial representations, illustrating apparatus, philosophical experiments, intellectual arithmetic, geography, logic, composition, discussion, the interrogatory method of teaching, and the study of some language (the English for instance,) should all be employed to rouse the curiosity and the intellect.—Above all, the most earnest efforts should be employed, depending on the grace of God, to wake up the conscience to religious subjects, and produce the inquiry, "What must I do to be saved?" If sin be the enemy, holiness is the friend of thought, having nothing to fear in truth. The conversion of the heart and mind from sin to holiness will, through the grace of God, prepare the way to discipline the intellect to a discriminating exercise of its powers.

But while you are thus disciplining and furnishing the mind, you should,

3. *Train it to instruct other minds.*—The pupils are to be educated for the benefit of others. They are, in some form or other, to be made *teachers*. They must, of course, be instructed in human nature—They must be taught the condition of other minds—They must learn to sympathise with other minds—They must feel for the ignorance of other minds—They must realize their responsibility freely to impart to other the knowledge they so freely receive; and not merely to their parents and friends, but wherever they have opportunity. And they must be made acquainted with the theory and art of teaching in the several spheres in which they are designed to labor.

Besides these three leading objects, there are also three subordinate ones, which the Committee have time now only to mention.

1. *To explore and lay open the native literature.*—This must be done for the *pupils*, or they will not command the respect of their countrymen; for the *mission*, or the members can never become acquainted with the actual state of the native mind—can never know how to remove its errors, nor guard their message from being fatally misapprehended.

2. *To cultivate the native languages.*

And,

3. *To prepare books in the native languages for the press.*

The illustration of these topics must be referred to future occasions.

Dear Brother, you have now the views which lead the Prudential Committee to connect the higher institutions of learning with the several Missions of the Board; and you have the objects of those institutions, and the principles on which they are to be reared and conducted.

We will suppose the fifteen seminaries contemplated by the Board to be all in operation; each having, on an average, sixty pupils. The aggregate of the pupils would be 900. If one sixth of this number graduate annually, the annual number of graduates would be 150; and in twenty years the number of graduates would be 3,000. Supposing only one third of the graduates entered the service of the mission as school masters, catechists, and preachers, our missions, in 20 years, would have had the assistance of *one thousand* educated native helpers. And should only a tenth of these become preachers of the Gospel, we still should have one hundred native preachers.

And suppose, dear brother, that the plans of the Board were fully carried out, and seminaries of Christian learning shone from conspicuous points through the long line of contemplated missions in Africa. Suppose they existed in every important district of western, and central, and Southern Asia. Suppose the mariner, as he navigated the straits and seas of the Indian Archipelago, were to see them on every considerable island.—Suppose he were to discern their light from far, as he approached the several groups of islands in the North Pacific. And suppose they were to be planted among the Indian tribes, on either side of the Rocky Mountains, and on the head waters of the Mississippi.—Here are at least *thirty* seminaries risen, rising, and to rise and shine over the heathen world, should God enable the Board to carry out its plans to their full accomplishment.

Suppose, also, that other Missionary Societies employ the same means for raising up native helpers, and thus hundreds of Seminaries are scattered over the heathen world. How rapidly would the work then advance of filling the world with religious teachers!

Meanwhile you will remember, dear brother, that education is but a department of the Missionary work, and is subordinate to the preaching of the Gospel. If we teach, it is that we may multiply teachers. If we turn aside in any way from the ministry of the word, it is that we may multiply the ministers of the word. Whether we be found in the school, in the Seminary, in the printing office, in the market-place, or field, or wayside, or the domestic retreat, or the pulpit, we have always one leading object; viz. *to plant such instrumentalities in heathen countries, as, with God's blessing shall secure for the Gospel a permanent footing and a constant and rapid increase in these countries*: not merely one class of instrumentalities, but all that are necessary—an enlightened education, a free press, and especially a learned, evangelical and faithful native ministry.—This is the end we have in view. Is it thought impracticable to fill the heathen world with teachers sent from Christian lands? That is not our object; that is not what the Apostles did, or attempted to do. No. As soon for instance, as we have reared among them a trust-worthy and competent printer, we will employ him to print our books; or an author we will employ him to prepare our books; or a teacher we will place him as an instructor in the schools, or a tutor or professor in the Seminary. As soon, too, as a convert shall be able rightly to divide the word of truth and otherwise fitted for the sacred ministry, he will be put into the holy office, and we will employ him to preach the Gospel to his countrymen; and if he be found faithful he will be ordained a pastor of one of the native Churches. Our manifest duty and our aim is, and will be, to put forward the native agency, and to lean upon it as much as can be done with a due regard to sound discretion. And whenever the young Christian communities, which have thus been planted and nurtured by our labors shall be able, through the blessing of God, to exist and flourish without an aid, let them declare their independence, and we will cheerfully acknowledge it.

Finally, we exhort you beloved brother, and you too beloved sister, to prepare for labors and conflicts that are to terminate only with life. Make yourselves strong in God and in the power of his might. Give your whole selves, body, soul, and spirit, to the work. Great responsibilities rest upon you, and at the same time you have much to admonish and animate you. Thousands of Christians in your native land will be watching your progress. Tens of thousands of eyes immediately about you, will be intent on all your movements. God the Father will look constantly upon you, and so will the blessed Savior, and the holy and blessed Spirit. The elect angels who execute the will of our divine Lord, will regard you with intensest interest. In short, none among the sons and daughters of the Church are less secluded, none more surrounded with witnesses, none more under the universal eye of intelligent good beings, none more sure of efficient guardianship, than Missionaries of the Cross, in foreign lands. Remember this, and may God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, "make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and dominion throughout all ages."

These instructions, beloved brother and sister, we have given you in the name and behalf of the Prudential Committee, and now we bid you "God speed" in your contemplated mission, and an affectionate FAREWELL.

R. ANDERSON,
D. GREENE,
W. J. ARMSTRONG,
} *Secretaries*

Missionary Rooms, Boston, March 1837.